

# THE PILGRIM

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

In the cold a snowbird pausing  
Sings a little song that cheers,  
Though the evergreens are dropping  
In slow grief their frozen tears,  
For the old year that is fading  
To the place of vanished years.

Oh thou Christ, whose great heart throbbeth  
Over all defenseless things,  
Thou who giveth to the snowbird  
Feathered coat and downy wings,  
And a heart so brave and cheery  
That in coldest times it sings.

Give like gifts to us who falter  
At the parting of the ways,  
With the Old Year left behind us,  
And a host of untried days;  
Waiting that we see but dimly  
Through the thick, surrounding haze.

Give us wings, oh Christ to bear us  
From the reach of right and wrong,  
And when some who take the footpaths  
Find the days too cold and long,  
Let us linger near a moment,  
Just to sing the snowbird's song.

Selected by  
Carol Boone

1985

Each age, each century, each decade, in fact, each year has had its peculiar responsibilities and battles. While our general Christian issues are constant and ever-present, special problems come and go. In order to meet the issues of our time, it is first essential to identify them. It is true that Satan would like us to fight a battle that has long been settled. But God calls us to be discerning and aware and not ignorant of Satan's devices.

Perhaps we feel that we have no special battles. The reformers had their cause to uphold. The Swartzenau decision and the 1881 division had their special needs for choices to be made. Even more recent divisions provided places to stand and causes to uphold and proclaim. Are we now in a kind of limbo period with no foes to fight or battles to win? I think we all know better. The hymn of Horatius Bonar says:

No slacker grows the fight;  
No feebler is the foe;  
No less the need for armor tried,  
For shield and spear and bow.

By God's help, I hope we can see some of our needs and perils as we enter another year of our Lord and the last half of the decade of the 80's.

Our foe is an accomplished expert in the questionable art of division. The Spirit of God unites and unifies. God wants His people to be one, and one with Him. When we may seem to be sailing along smoothly, be sure Satan is not satisfied and will seek to divide from within.

One particular issue seems to be a disagreement in exercising of authority and discipline in the churches. I know of several conservative groups with some sort of problem in this area. We have a good heritage of Scriptural practices, but that doesn't mean we cannot improve and make progress. We must make progress, but



we should also be on guard against unneeded and particularly unscriptural changes. The Brethren have historically been led by what might be called a "plural lay ministry." Brethren without special training are chosen from the local congregation to share with others positions of responsibility. This might be contrasted to some groups governed by a bishop or an authoritative board in the local church and in the brotherhood. A lay ministry of this sort would be expected to exercise a rather mild authority. However, perhaps we have been complacent in this and neglected duties that would be promptly attended by a bishop or board. There is certainly need for balance and moderation here. Peter says that elders should take oversight willingly and not as lords but examples. Paul in Hebrews says to "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Hebrews 13:17) If we each fulfill our duties in our places, Satan will have no occasion to divide us. It is good to examine ourselves and judge ourselves and see that our duty is being performed—humbly and faithfully—whether we have a duty to obey or to watch and oversee.

A constant battleground of our time is in the field of worldliness. Never has the world been so attractive, the entertainments so vivid, the distinction between Christian professors and non-professors so small. Never have there been so many "gray areas," like activities that appear so harmless but so gradually wean Christians away from holiness of life. Never have there been so many voices around us—all claiming rightness. Never has there been more tolerance for differences and less real concern for one another. Often neighbors hardly know each other or care to get acquainted. "Live and let live," seems to prevail. "Do your own thing; leave me alone; I can do as I please as long as it doesn't hurt anyone." In a time like ours, young people are seldom ridiculed for any good choice they might make. But why make it? Where are the issues? Is there a cause? Young people, the

cause is still the same as when David uttered similar words before he fought Goliath. Righteousness and God's laws never change. Dispell Satan's smoke screen by the pure word of God, and we will see the issues clearly. Here again, we have a good heritage. Our forefathers spoke out against worldliness, and recommended to us God's word as our only rule of faith and practice. May we rely on the guidance of the word of God. We still have the same need to know God, be born of His Spirit, obey Him, and be led to holy living. All the more in 1985 there is vital need for a strong Christian testimony and a giving out of the Gospel of Jesus.

Love in this careless and uncaring world is still a desperate need. For lack of it, homes are being broken, brethren divided, and young people discouraged. "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them," (Col. 3:19) is more vital counsel than ever before. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord," sounds out with more urgency than ever in this feminine-oriented culture of the 80's. "... By love serve one another," might well be the answer to most of our current needs, especially to meet the efforts of Satan to divide us. That new commandment Jesus gave is applicable in every age, and it works.

One thing certain, we are not just spectators in our 1985 struggles. We are involved, whether we choose to be or not, striving either for or against the truth. Also, we must remember that our fellow Christians, even of other denominations, are not our foes. Sometimes it seems that those closest to us, our own brethren and sisters, are the ones with whom we strive the most. But may we uphold and pray for one another. Individualism is not a friend to fellowship.

Because we are so susceptible to the adversary's tricks, we need constantly to rely on our Heavenly Father. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. Jesus said, "... Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." That surely means even into 1985.     ---T.L.C.

## YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE

"I beseech you (beg of you) therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:1-2) What does "your reasonable service" mean? Are the ways of God reasonable to an unconverted soul? Would it be reasonable to turn the other cheek? or to love one's enemy? or, if one was sued by law and his goods taken away, to give more than is asked for? I believe we can conclude that "...the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7) Also we can conclude that there must be a transformation, a renewing of the mind; and then it becomes very reasonable to present our bodies a living sacrifice and not to be conformed to this world, but to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Can we do this by our own efforts? Jesus said; "...without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5) Also Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." (John 12:24-25) I believe this is the real battlefield in our life: to die to self. The verse above says; "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone." Unless we are willing to die to self, we will abide alone; for how can the Holy Spirit rule when self is in control? "But if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." So if we die to self, and have the attitude, "Here I am Lord; use me for Your glory; I want to be in Your word and will," then the Spirit can operate in our lives, and fruit can be brought forth, because the Lord is in control, "But he that loveth his life shall lose it." Or if our



life is self centered, when our goals and affections center on self and this world, then we will perish with this world, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live, For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom.8:13-14) "And he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." What a statement the Lord made here! And what a lesson to learn! We realize what a blunder we make of things when we are in control, and we actually hate our own way, our own life. "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal.2:20)

This brings another thought to mind on the theme of love. Would it be reasonable to the earthly mind to die in somebody else's place, especially if there hadn't been a good relationship between the two? This is what happened between Christ and us. "But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom.5:8) And then one of the greatest commandments of the New Testament: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35)

When I consider this command, it staggers my mind and makes me feel unworthy. How great is God's love, and to think He actually commanded us to love as He loved! Dear Reader! this is no small thing! But again, do we have the ability or power of ourselves to obey this command? A thousand times no! Without Christ within, or the power of the Spirit operating in our life, we cannot even begin to do God's will. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all things be done with charity." (I Cor. 16:13, 14) We can speak with tongues of men and angels, can have the gift of prophecy, and under-

stand all mysteries and all knowledge, and have all faith to remove mountains, and bestow all our goods to feed the poor, and give our bodies to be burned, and still not have charity, and it profiteth nothing! Charity suffers long, and is kind; it envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doesn't behave unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things; charity never faileth ...and now abideth faith, hope, charity, but the greatest is charity. (I Cor. 13)

"But I say unto you which hear, love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you. And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also. Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again. And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise. For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." Then, in the remainder of the chapter are a few of Jesus' teachings: "The disciple is not above his master: but everyone that is perfect

shall be as his master.... "For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit, neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit... For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock, and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock." (Luke 6:27-48)

The teachings that Jesus gave are unreasonable to our our fleshly mind, but are reasonable to a born again believer, to one walking in the Spirit, and who has tasted that the Lord is gracious, having the divine nature.

Jesus is our pattern, but how easy it is to let the flesh rule! "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously." (1 Pet. 2:21-23) What a lesson for our lives: to commit ourselves to Him that judgeth righteously. This is one of the steps to Christian maturity. If Jesus is our all, we don't have to defend ourselves, but can commit everthing unto His hands. If we follow the commands of Jesus in their purity, our lives will be void of pride, hatred, strife, envying, jealousy. One example of a life committed to his Lord is Stephen. "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God, Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him



with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 7:54-60) What a beautiful example! What a wonderful spirit Stephen had! And it's because he had the divine nature; the power of the Holy Ghost was in him. And this same Holy Spirit is available today. May we be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

What a reasonable service! It keeps us from the corruption that is in the world through lust. How reasonable to be conformed to Jesus, and not be conformed to this evil world that is falling apart and will soon be judged! Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.

In Christian love,  
Kenneth Garber, Twain Harte, Calif.

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### BE HUMBLE AND FAITHFUL IN DOING

In Umberto Eco's brooding, best-selling novel, The Name of the Rose, the medieval plot comes to a climax with a dramatic confrontation between two monks locked in mortal conflict.

Each of them, William of Baskerville and blind Jorge, believes he speaks for God. Each sincerely and passionately believes the other is really the devil incarnate. "You are the devil," William accuses Jorge, who says, "You are worse than the devil."

The reader can hardly fail to side with the humane William against the villainous Jorge and delight in William's grand denouncement: "The devil is not the Prince of Matter; the devil is the arrogance of the spirit..."

William is right, of course, but his "rightness"

is not enough, for in the ensuing physical struggle, a tumbled lamp sets fire to the monastery library, and the world's greatest repository of knowledge is reduced to ashes.

It is the year 1327, and the destruction of the abbey and its treasure marks the onset of Europe's Dark Ages, an era from which the continent will not soon emerge.

I do not pretend to know all that Eco meant by The Name of the Rose, but it is apparent that he is warning us that it is not enough to defend truth from error. We must be careful, lest in fighting error, we destroy the truth as well.

Many people I know today are obsessed with their struggle to make sure that truth prevails over error. They have the truth and those who do not agree with them are blasphemously in error. Their opponents, they are certain, are possessed by the devil. The Bible thus becomes a weapon to be used to prove others "wrong," a condition that is tantamount to intentional evil.

The problem, of course, is not with the Scriptures, but with what people do with them. If dedication to God's word, such as that indicated by the Psalmist (119:97-105), produces a humble and joyful spirit, then a person can say with him, "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (119:105)

But, if one's dedication to the Scriptures produces an arrogant, self-righteous spirit, that is probably the greatest blasphemy of all.

For the purpose of God's word is not to make us content or even proud in knowing, but humble and faithful in doing. It is in noble deeds, not noble thoughts, that God's truth is made manifest.

If the Scriptures speak to us, they will focus, not on the truth we possess, but the truth we are called to be. Thus, the writer of Timothy finishes his passages in the Scriptures: "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (3:17)

—By Lawrence W. Althouse in "The Bible Speaks"  
Selected by Kenneth Martin from the Weekly Farm Paper

HISTORICAL  
HISTORY OF THE BIBLE  
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

This Gospel of Luke has been called "The most beautiful book ever written." Certainly it is written in beautiful style, some think mainly to Greeks who were the educated men of the age. Luke may have been a Greek. His Gospel is more detailed in some ways, than any of the others.

"Matthew Henry introduces his commentary of Luke's Gospel this way:

We are now entering into the labours of another evangelist; his name Luke. Some think that he was the only one of all the permen of the Scripture that was not of the seed of Israel. He was a Jewish proselyte, and as some conjecture, converted to Christianity by the ministry of St. Paul; and after his coming into Macedonia (Acts 16:10) he was his constant companion. He had employed himself in the study and practice of physic; hence, Paul calls him Luke the beloved Physician, (Col. 4:14)... He is supposed to have written this gospel when he was associated with St. Paul, Some think that this is the brother whom Paul speaks of (II Cor. 8:18), "whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches of Christ. His way and manner of writing are accurate and exact, his style polite and elegant, yet perspicuous (easy to understand). He expresses himself in a vein of purer Greek than is to be found in the other writers of the holy story. Thus he relates divers things more copiously than the other evangelists; and thus he especially treats of those things which relate to the priestly office of Christ. It is uncertain when, or about what time, this gospel was written. Some think that it was written at Rome, a little before he wrote his history of the Acts of the Apostles (which is a continuation of this), when he was there with Paul, while he was a prisoner, and preaching in his own hired house, with which the history of the



Acts concludes; and then Paul saith that only Luke was with him, (IITim. 4:11) When he was under that voluntary confinement with Paul, he had leisure to compile these two histories (and many excellent writings the church has been indebted to a prison for). Jerome says, He died when he was eighty-four years of age, and was never married."

Matthew Henry's Commentary p. 206

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### 100 YEARS AGO

This little selection from the February, 1885, Vindicator points out the damaging effect of bad company.

#### BAD COMPANY

Bad company is like a nail driven into a post; after the first or second blow it can be drawn without much difficulty. But once driven up to the head, so that the pinchers cannot take hold of it to draw it out, it can only be done by destroying part of the wood itself.

—Selected by John Schonwald

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### MEDITATIONS

#### THE LORD'S FAMILY

Luke 8:21: "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." This family includes all believers, as it is written, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God," (John 4:15) "...Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) "...I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 10:16,17) The size of this family will be so vast no man can number them. Eph. 5:30: "For we are members of his body of his flesh, and of his bones." Eph. 4:32: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiv-

ing one another, even as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you." In the light of these Scriptures and many similar ones, shouldn't we, the estranged bodies of our brotherhood, have a reunion to seek to remove stumbling blocks and make a straight path. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 6:1: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which art in heaven." At first glance there seems to be some contradiction. But by closer study we find we cannot choose our own path to pursue, but must be willing to show humble obedience in whatever place the Lord puts us. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

--Ernest Wagner Modesto, California

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#### THE YEAR IS GONE BEYOND RECALL

The year is gone, beyond recall,  
With all its hopes and fears,  
With all its bright and gladdening smiles,  
With all its mourners' tears.

Thy thankful people praise Thee, Lord,  
For countless gifts received;  
And pray for grace to keep the faith  
Which saints of old believed.

To Thee we come, O gracious Lord,  
The newborn year to bless;  
Defend our land from pestilence;  
Give peace and plenteousness.

From evil deeds that stain the past  
We now desire to flee;  
And pray that future years may all  
Be spent, dear Lord, for Thee.

—Ancient Anonymous Latin Hymn

## GOD'S LOVE

God's love is like an island  
In life's ocean vast and wide—  
A peaceful, quiet shelter  
From the restless, rising tide...

God's love is like an anchor  
When the angry billows roll—  
A mooring in the storms of life,  
A stronghold for the soul...

God's love is like a fortress  
And we seek protection there  
When the waves of tribulation  
Seem to drown us in despair...

God's love is like a harbor  
Where our souls can find sweet rest  
From the struggle and the tension  
Of life's fast and futile quest...

God's love is like a beacon  
Burning bright with faith and prayer,  
And through the changing scenes of life  
We can find a haven there!

--Helen Steiner Rice

Selected by Joe and Elizabeth Royer

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At the beginning of this 32nd year of publication, of The Pilgrim, we express our appreciation to all who have renewed their subscriptions and especially to those who sent gifts to help in the expenses. Elma Moss supplies our address labels. Dorothy Moore and now Ina Cover are our faithful typists. We still invite our readers to write as God directs. It is encouraging to all. We have not been sending renewal notices because of our mailing method. If you wish to cancel, renew, or send The Pilgrim to a friend, let us hear from you. --L.C.



## FOR YOUTH

## VISION

Do you need glasses? At the optometrist's office a few days ago, a series of tests was given to me; different lenses to look through, big letters, little letters, different colors, etc. When this procedure was finished I was informed that I was near-sighted and should wear glasses while driving and especially at night. The doctor then held two lenses in front of my eyes to show what glasses would do for me. What a difference! Objects far away were now clear!

On the way home the thought came to me, "I wonder if my spiritual sight is like my physical?" It's something to think about. Are we nearsighted when it comes to spiritual things? Do we see only the things close to us? Yes, there is a need to pay attention to our jobs, friends, activities, and such, but don't let your long distance vision become blurry! Take time to look up and beyond this life to what lies ahead: eternal life or everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:31-46)

"Especially at night," the doctor had said. We all know what it's like to see in the dark. You just can't very well! Spiritually, if we're in Christ and have Christ in us, we'll never be in darkness. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12) and also tells us, "Ye are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14) Young people, keep looking to Jesus and in so doing help others see clearly also!

—Lloyd Wagner  
Modesto, California

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Open my eyes, that I may see  
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
That shall unclasp, and set me free.

—Charles H. Scott

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### "Lessons From Nature" Series

#### THORNS

When people run into some unexpected thorns, the first word they often say is "Ouch!" But other words—yes, even words of admiration—might be proper.

Thorns are an amazing invention. And in spite of all the discomfort they cause us, we must admit that they are well-suited for their purpose.

Many different kinds of thorns grow on vines, bushes, flowers, weeds, and even on some large trees. Blackberries, wild roses, nettles, locust trees, and many other plants are protected by these sharp spiny growths. There are more than 2000 species in the world of thistles alone, and hundreds of different varieties of cactus.

Are thorns really necessary? As we walk through the wilderness of life, we have experiences which, like unexpected thorns, surprise us with painful stings. Why do they have to happen? What good do they do us?

The Scripture says that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." The pricked conscience, the stab of temporary sorrow, the bleeding grief—if they are properly responded to—can keep us from much greater sorrows that are not so easily healed.

Even thorns can be used by God for good.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

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## GO LABOR ON

Go, labor on; spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went;  
Should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labor on; 'tis not for naught;  
Thy earthly loss is heav'nly gain;  
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not;  
The Master praises:—what are men?

Go, labor on; enough while here  
If He shall praise thee, if He deign  
Thy willing heart to mark and cheer;  
No toil for Him shall be in vain.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;  
Be wise the erring soul to win;  
Go forth into the world's highway,  
Compel the wand'rer to come in.

Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice;  
For toil comes rest, for exile home;  
Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice,  
The midnight peal, "Behold, I come."

--Horatius Bonar 1843



## PRUNING FOR FRUIT

Pruning trees requires knowledge and skill if the tree is to be benefited. Some orchardists know just which branches to remove and which to save to shape the tree for the best strength and the most fruit. God is the one who shapes and prunes His people, and He knows exactly how to do it for our benefit.

Pruning time is nearly past, and it always reminds me of John 15:1-8 where our Saviour tells of bearing fruit and the importance of pruning in this part of the Christian life. Verse 2 says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." To place and apply the parts of this parable Jesus explains, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman...ye are the branches."

God has a fruitful vineyard in the earth—one that brings Him pleasure and praise. He is the husbandman to this vineyard. It was one time planted in Canaan with a vine brought out of Egypt. (See Psalm 80:8-19 and Isaiah 5:1-7) This vineyard was planted well and had every advantage but it produced wild grapes—poor fruit. God had to deal severely with this vineyard. Now Jesus comes and proclaims that He is the true vine. This vine will not produce wild grapes but will bear much fruit and glorify the Father. How does pruning affect the vineyard of God? And how is this accomplished in the individual lives?

The purpose of a fruit tree or a vine is to produce fruit. And this is God's purpose for us, His people. His pruning and purging, His watering and feeding, are all to enable us to bear fruit. Jesus told the parable of a fig tree that would not bear. (Luke 13:6-9) He assured us of God's love for His own and His patience with them when, in the parable, the owner wanted to cut down this barren tree. But the dresser or caretaker pleaded to give it another opportunity. He would dig around it and fertilize it, and then if it still would

not bear fruit, they would destroy it. This parable surely describes Israel as the fig tree, but it is also about all of us. God will have us bear fruit, and for this end He gives us time and opportunity and every encouragement. He bestows His grace and love because He wants to spare us. He wants all to be saved and none to perish (I Timothy 2:4 and II Peter 3:9), and He gave His Son as our Saviour that we might not perish. But the parable also teaches that we must respond to God's love and grace. The object and result is fruit—the fruit of the Spirit.

It is revealing to inspect the branches that are pruned from a tree. We find good-sized, dead branches. These were completely lopped off because they would never bear fruit. Then we find small twigs and branches pruned from the good, fruit-bearing limbs. Some of these might be dead or broken or diseased. But we find also branches that look healthy. It may seem that those should have been left, but the pruner knew that they would be a hindrance to bearing the most and best fruit, so he took them off.

God knows us so well that he knows just how to shape us if we are yielded to him. He is after the fruit of the Spirit in our lives which Paul lists in Galatians 5:22, 23 as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. This fruit will not grow on dead branches, diseased branches, or those severed from the tree. Jesus says, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit." (Matthew 7:18)

"Purgeth" in John 15:2 in one translation is rendered "trims clean." We can be trimmed clean of many faults and evils to make room for fruit. Selfishness can be trimmed off to make room for the fruit of love. Complaining and discontent can be replaced by joy. Strife in family, church, community or just in our own hearts can be purged to allow peace to flow as a river.

Our quick tempers and impatience hinder the fruit of longsuffering and gentleness. One man came to his minister and asked how he could have more patience. The

minister replied with a prayer: "Lord, send this man tribulation!" The man protested that he didn't want tribulation, but the minister quoted Romans 5:3 "...we glory in tribulation also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience."

Other dead wood that must be trimmed off is doubt to allow the fruit of faith; pride must fall in favor of meekness. Excess in eating and drinking, in spending and show, when purged and cut away, will allow temperance to flourish.

Pruning our lives may involve even more. Our own works and pet methods may look pretty good to us, but to the Master Pruner they are a hinderance to growth and fruit. May we be submissive to the cutting back and even the chastening of God "that we may be partakers of His holiness.

"The fire will not hurt thee; I only design

Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."

Praise God for His patient and faithful pruning.—L.C.

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#### MEDITATIONS: UNITED IN CHRIST

In Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians we read: (1:9, 10) "God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." The apostle goes on to tell them not to let their preference of teachers distract them from Christ's service.

—Ernest Wagner

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#### COMMUNION NOTICE

We, the members of the eastern district of the Old Brethren, have appointed a Lovefeast and Communion for April 6 & 7 at the Wakarusa meeting house. The Lord willing, we are looking forward to a time of sweet fellowship and feeding upon His Word. A hearty invitation is extended to all of our brethren, sisters, and friends.

—Melvin Coning



"FOR WHAT IS YOUR LIFE? IT IS A VAPOR THAT APPEARETH FOR A LITTLE WHILE, AND THEN VANISHETH AWAY."

Recently, I read a couple of paragraphs, that have been coming back to me. I would like to share them with you, and after you read them, just stop and meditate and see if it isn't the way of life.

"I am standing upon a seashore; a ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and the sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, 'There she's gone.'"

"Gone where? Gone from my sight—that's all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me not her, and just at that moment when someone at my side says, 'There—she's gone,' there are other eyes watching her coming and other voices ready to take up the glad shout, 'There she comes!' and that is life."

We could just as well say, as I stand in the hospital, or in a home; we see a ship (baby) spreading her sails and starting for the voyage of life. Indeed they are objects of beauty. We know that there will soon be strength there in time. As the child gets older, his sails are bigger and stronger. They have to be strong to take us through the storms of life. Many times the waves of this life almost capsize us, but we gain foothold again and press on. Then, as the rest says, "I stand and watch till she hangs as a speck, almost gone from our sight." Have you visited the nursing home lately or even the older ones in our group? Surely we can see some that are almost gone, but still hanging on. Maybe we that have parents that have left us can remember how once they were living examples. Their sails were high and strong, and it seemed they could weather any storm. What has happened? The storms of

life have taken their toll. Yes, I can well hear the words, "She's gone."

As the next paragraph says, "Gone where? From our sight, that is all." With our loved ones, we can still see the shell, but the real jewel has left, fled to another home. The next statement, I appreciate. "Her diminished size is in me." Yes, we think when we see them gasp for the last time, that is it. But this is only our simple thinking. If we have been in tune with Christ, this is only a grand beginning. Yes, I believe there will be those on that golden shore that will say, "There she comes!"

—Everett Oyler  
New Paris, Indiana

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#### KATHAROS DIANOIA

"...Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ..." A pure thorough mind—the meaning of our Greek title—is the Christian difference from evil. The translation for katharos means "clean, clear, or pure." As a pure, clear stream of water is, so should our minds be also; clean, clear, and pure, able to see through it the solid rock Jesus Christ. Isn't the thought of diving into a muddy river appalling? So is the Christian diving into sin; there is a need for cleansing in clean, pure water.

The English word "catharsis" is derived from this. It simply means a purgation. Used in Psychiatry, it is psychotherapy that encourages or permits the discharge of pent-up, socially unacceptable emotions. (Compare this with prayer.) The Greek katharsis is a cleansing. The English "dianoetic" pertains to thought or reasoning, especially ramblings of reasonings. To put this together, then, we need katharsis of our dianoetic minds. Katharos dianoia is the sought result.

While attending college I was impressed at the contrast in minds of non-Christians and Christians. There is a very wide gap between the two. It seems that every

imagination and thought are evil continually. (Gen. 6:5) Man has invented many devices to keep minds occupied with evil—to prevent us from thinking. Are men afraid to think? Radios, television, computer games, alcohol, and drugs: all can be examples of a mind in the grips of carnality, at enmity with God.

What do we think about? We are instructed to think about "...Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just (righteous), whatsoever things are pure (chaste), whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise—think on these things." (Phil. 4:8) The dictionary says of virtue: "moral goodness" (righteousness).

Paul tells the Ephesians that if we have put on the new man, we will cease our lying and speak only the truth, for we are members one of another. (4:24,25) How can we have this newness? "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Cor. 5:17) We have to be "renewed in the spirit of (our) mind." (katharos, dianoetic) (Eph. 4:23). Then we are "renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created (us) (Dianoia). (Co. 3:10). So, it is no longer our desire to fulfill ~~the~~ desires of the flesh and of the mind." (Eph. 2:3) Rather, we suscite every thought "into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (II Cor. 10:5) We are transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that no longer are we conformed to the world but conformed to Christ. (Rom. 12:2) "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in



earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree as one. (I John 5:4-8)

"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind,....As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be holy; for I am holy." (I Pet. 1:13-16) So, when we are captivated to obedience, we have power over our mind and are enabled to control our thoughts. Many times I had to "gird up the loins of my mind," being in the midst of evil minds. "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Rom. 8:5 NKJV) "... The carnal mind is enmity against God."

Peter sought to stir up our pure minds (II Pet. 3:1); let's try to do the same by looking at some conditions of the mind.

**A DESPITEFUL MIND:** In Ezekiel 36 we find that Israel experienced the spiteful minds of the surrounding nations. This seems to have been a chastisement of God against Israel; "...since you have not hated blood, therefore the blood shall pursue you." Israel was made desolate for a time, but was renewed after bearing the shame of the nations and turning back to their Lord. (Ex. 35,36)

The Philistines suffered also because of a spiteful heart and being vengeful. (Ex. 25:15-17) "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses." (Heb. 10:28) What will happen to those in this age who are spiteful? It is among the list of vile sins in Rom. 1:30, "...they which commit such things are worthy of death..." (v. 32)

**A FOOLISH MIND:** "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." (Pro. 29:11) "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men." (Pro. 24:9)

The apostle Paul labels the Galatians as "foolish" because of their backsliding into Judaism. (3:1-3)

"And five of them were wise, and five were foolish." This describes the ten virgins awaiting the bridegroom; five were ready when he came; five were out hastily buying oil for their lamps and were too late. (Mat. 25:2)

The wisdom of this world is cited as foolishness, but the knowledge of Christ crucified is power and wisdom. "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." (I Cor. 1:25)

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:" (I Cor. 1:26-30)

The apostle Paul demonstrates the foolishness of boasting in II Cor. 11:16-23.

A REPROBATE MIND: "...Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5) "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient..." (Rom. 1:28) The Greek word for reprobate is "adokimos" which means "void of judgement, castaway, rejected."

To be continued

Ronald L. Cable Goshen, Indiana

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#### THE LAST HYMN

The Sabbath Day was ending  
in a village by the sea;  
The uttered benediction  
touched the people tenderly;  
And they rose to face the sunset  
in the glowing, lighted West,

And then hastened to their dwellings  
for God's blessed boon of rest.

But they looked upon the waters,  
and a storm was raging there;  
A fierce spirit moved above them,  
the wild spirit of the air;  
And it lashed and shook and tore them  
till they thundered groaned and boomed,  
And alas for any vessel  
to their yawning gulfs entombed.

Very anxious went the people  
on that rocky coast of Wales,  
Lest the dawn of coming morrows  
should be telling awful tales,  
When the sea had spent its passion  
and should cast upon the shore  
Bits of wreck, and swollen victims,  
as it had done heretofore.

With the rough winds blowing round her  
a brave woman strained her eyes,  
As she saw along the billows  
a large vessel fall and rise.  
Oh! it did not need a prophet  
to tell what the end must be,  
For no ship could ride in safety  
near the shore in such a sea.

Then the pitying people hurried  
from their homes and thronged the beach.  
Oh, for power to cross the waters  
and the perishing to reach!  
Helpless hands were wrung in terror;  
tender hearts grew cold with dread;  
And the ship urged by the tempest  
to the fatal rock shore sped.

"She has parted in the middle!"  
"Oh, the half of her goes down!"



Lo! when next the white, shocked faces  
looked with terror on the sea,  
Only one last clinging figure  
on a spar was seen to be.

Nearer to the trembling watchers  
came the wreck tossed by the wave,  
And the man still clung and floated,  
though no power on earth could save.  
"Could we send him a short message?"  
"Here's a trumpet; shout away!"  
'Twas the preacher's hand that took it,  
and he wondered what to say.

Any memory of his sermon?  
Firstly? Secondly? Ah, no.  
There was but one thing to utter  
in that awful hour of woe.  
So he shouted through the trumpet,  
"Look to Jesus! Can you hear?"  
And "Aye, aye, sir!" rang the answer  
o'er the waters loud and clear.

Then they listened, "He is singing  
'Jesus lover of my soul',"  
And the winds brought back the echo,  
"While the nearer waters roll."  
Strange, indeed, it was to hear him,  
"Till the storm of life is past,"  
Singing bravely o'er the waters,  
"Oh receive my soul at last."

He could have no other refuge,  
"Hangs my helpless soul on Thee."  
"Leave, oh! leave me not,"  
the singer dropped into the sea.  
And the watchers looking homeward,  
Though their eyes by tears made dim,  
Said, "He passed to be with Jesus  
in the singing of that hymn."

—Marrienne Farningham  
Selected by Susan R. Coning

## OBITUARIES

ANNA MARY BOWSER, oldest daughter of Bro. Daniel and Sister Allie (Garst) Denlinger, was born Dec. 19, 1898, in Montgomery Co., Ohio. She passed away in the early morning hours of Jan. 13, 1985, after a few days of lung congestion, at the age of 86 years and 25 days.

On Nov. 23, 1919, she was united in holy wedlock with Charles H. Bowser. To this union were born four children, Earle, Margaret Brubaker, Lloyd, and Carol Boone.

This union was broken on Nov. 21, 1973, when her companion of 54 years passed away. She continued to maintain her home until March of last year when, after a fall, she was hospitalized. After a month in a convalescent home, she went to the home of her daughter, Carol, where she was faithfully cared for until her death. During this time she was able to go to meeting occasionally, with assistance, up to one week before her death.

On Aug. 25, 1918, she accepted the redeeming power of Christ by water baptism into the fellowship of the Old German Baptist Church. She, with her husband, was installed into the Deacon's office in 1934, in which she served faithfully as long as health permitted. Her quiet, uncomplaining life of serving others is a worthy example of "a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use."

Along with the above-named children and their companions, she is survived by 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; 1 foster grandson, whom she loved as her own; 1 brother, Isaac, and 1 sister, Della Garber, with their companions; a brother-in-law, Joseph Brubaker; a sister-in-law, Gladys Denlinger; and other relatives and friends.

Services were conducted Jan. 16 at 9:15 a.m. at Gilbert Funeral Home in Brookville, Ohio, and at 10:00 a.m. at Wolf Creek meeting house by the home brethren. The text was taken from I Cor. 13, "Value, Virtue, and Victory of Charity." Hymns 393, 392, and 395 were sung during the services. Burial was made in Eversole Ceme-

tery, beside her companion, to await the sound of "the last trump."

—The Family

EDNA MAREA DUTTER, daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Wise) Blocher was born August 17, 1903, near Minot, North Dakota. Mother slept away just before dawn on January 28, 1985, at the age of 81 years, 5 months, and 11 days.

She was united in marriage to George Corson Dutter on December 16, 1925, near Pymont, Indiana. To this union were born eight children.

She, with her companion, was baptized into the Old German Baptist Church on August 27, 1931, and remained true to her Lord to the very last breath. Realizing that life was slipping away, Mother called for the anointing on September 30, 1984 and was comforted.

She had lived in Indiana the last ten years. She also had lived in North Dakota and California.

She is survived by her eight children: David, Ivan, Gordon, Charlotte Flora, Georgia Morrell, Doris Oyler, Marshall, and Martha Meador. Mother has 35 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Rosa Scholl, and Cordelia Kuns; three brothers, Floyd Blocher, Paul Blocher, and Joe Blocher.

Preceding her in death, besides her husband and parents, were one brother, two sisters, and one grandchild. She will be greatly missed by her children and grandchildren.

Funeral services were held January 30 at 9:30 a.m. in the Reinke Funeral Home and at the Bachelor Run Meeting House at 10 a.m. Scriptures used were Psalm 90, and St. John 11:28, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." The body was then taken to Modesto, California, for burial at the Wood Colony Cemetery, with graveside services at 4 p.m., January 31, 1985. Hymns 55 and 393 were used at both services.

—The Family

BIRTH

FLORA - A son, Kenton Jonathan, born February 2 to Buford and Joan Flora of Nappanee, Indiana.



HISTORICAL  
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

John was the son of Zebedee and Salome. He lived about seventy years after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. He died at Ephesus, the last of the Apostolic band.

The father Zebedee and his sons, James and John were fishermen on the sea of Galilee. They owned ships and had hired servants. Taking John 19:26,27 literally, he owned a home in Jerusalem and may have been a representative there of the fishing firm of his brethren.

John was first a disciple of John the Baptist before he became a disciple of Jesus. He was a devout man. John was one of the three (with Peter and James) who formed the inner circle of the Apostles who were brought into the most intimate relations of the Lord. Of these John's intimacy with Christ was the closest. He speaks of himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved.

John was well known to the high priest. He was the companion of Peter during the founding of the church in Jerusalem. (Acts 3)

John was specially fitted to be the writer of this Gospel because of his intimacy with Christ, his deep, spiritual insight, and his intensity of thought and feeling. (Adapted from the studies of Bishop Alvin Winger)

Halley writes about John and the Gospel of John:

"For a number of years Jerusalem seems to have been his chief residence. According to well-established tradition, his later years were spent at Ephesus. Nothing is known of his activities or whereabouts in the interim. At Ephesus he lived to a great age and wrote his Gospel, three Epistles, and Revelation.

"The date of his Gospel is usually assigned to about A.D. 90. Some think that John originally wrote this Gospel much earlier, while he was still in Jerusalem, soon after the Resurrection, in Hebrew; and in later years, issued, in Greek, the Ephesian edition, which was the parent of all extant manuscripts."

## THE PILGRIM

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### FOR YOUTH

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP TO CHRISTIANS

Fellowship is the companionship or communion of those with the same beliefs and convictions. There is sharing with other Christians and communing with God.

Fellowship is encouraging to Christians. Speaking to each other and identifying with their problems, rejoicing in their success, or merely knowing they have the same trials, goals, and triumphs can be a great comfort to those who feel alone. Fellowship not only eliminates the feeling of independence; but, with a sharing of values and convictions, creates unity. Christians become more like each other and more like Christ. There is also the discipline of working with each other that fellowship brings.

To a Christian there is also the greater joy of fellowship with God. This fellowship brings a glimpse of glory and eternal life, and a realization of the frailties of our pleasures. It also brings a greater devotion and a death to the old man in a likeness to His death. (Philippians 3:10) There is also a comfort in His understanding and complete knowing of all our joys and trials.

Therefore, fellowship is a necessary element in the Christian life. Without fellowship with others, Christians would probably become discouraged and independent. Without fellowship with God we would miss the link that draws us closer to Him.

—Ina Cover

Tuolumne, California

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#### NOTE OF THANKS

Our sincere thanks to all those who gave us their support in prayer, encouragement, and financial aid in our recent unexpected medical trauma. May all experience the blessing there is in helping each other in in their needs.

—The James Huffman Family

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### WHO SAID IT?

Write the name of the person who is being quoted in the blank following each statement. The names you'll need appear at the bottom.

1. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."  
(Matt. 16:16) \_\_\_\_\_
2. "I find in him no fault at all" (John 18:38)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "Rabboni!" (John 20:16) \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God." (John 3:2) \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he." (Mark 14:44) \_\_\_\_\_
6. "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." (Mark 1:7) \_\_\_\_\_
7. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." (Luke 1:38) \_\_\_\_\_
8. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. "Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee." (Acts 24:25) \_\_\_\_\_
10. "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? (Acts 9:6)  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."  
(Acts 26:28) \_\_\_\_\_
12. "Understandest thou what thou redest?" (Acts 8:30)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Felix, Philip, Judas, Peter, Saul, King Agrippa, Pilate, the mother of Jesus, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, John the Baptist, Philippian jailer.

Selected from the Church Correspondent

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## A HEART LIKE THINE

Give me a love that knows no ill;  
Give me the grace to do Thy will.  
Pardon and cleanse this soul of mine;  
Give me a heart like Thine.

Only a joy, a few brief years,  
Only a dream, a vale of tears  
Vain is this world I now resign.  
Give me a heart like Thine.

Open mine eyes that I may see;  
Show me the cross of Calvary.  
There may I go and not repine.  
Give me a heart like Thine.

Pillow my head upon Thy breast;  
Shelter my soul and give me rest;  
Fill me with love as I recline.  
Give me a heart like Thine.

Come to my soul, blessed Jesus.  
Hear me, O Saviour divine!  
Open the fountain and cleanse me;  
Give me a heart, a heart like Thine.

—J. W. Vandeventer

## UNITY IN THE BODY

"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."  
(I Corinthians 12:25)

There is a unity and harmony in the body of a man that is scarcely equalled any place else. It is rarely ever divided in any way. If there must be an amputation for any reason, it is accompanied by severe pain, mental anguish, and a crippled condition forever after. A man's body is not like the starfish or earthworm which possess the power of regeneration; if a leg or a part is cut off, usually a new one will grow. In our bodies, even a tooth or a fingernail will not grow in if once removed.

A body is the picture of harmony and peace. It all moves together, pressing on in the same direction. For just one small example, as a man runs, his arms swing in a certain pattern. Try jogging with your arms swinging out of timing. The systems of the body support each other and each has a special place and function, although their appearance, their care, their size are all quite different.

In I Corinthians 12 Paul compares the church to a body—in fact, he says it is a body—the body of Christ. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many." (v. 13,14) These verses suggest (and we know it is true) that those of various backgrounds (Jew, Gentile, bond, free) were all in the church and that it sometimes caused problems. But here is the beauty in the body of Christ: "But now hath God set the members everyone of them in the body as it hath pleased him." (v. 18) Each member has a unique place to fill. The inference is that without this member, as without an eye or foot (v. 21,22), there would be something missing; the body would be

crippled.

Suppose we compare a church division to a natural body that is split. It is one thing to have limbs amputated and the body remain crippled. But it is quite another to think of a body being split down the middle. The certain result is death.

When a man and woman are married, they become —"one flesh." I have an article before me comparing church divisions to divorce. The similarities are striking, and I will reproduce three of the comparisons here (Family Life—February, 1982, by Elmo Stoll):

"1) Both are the result of human reasoning. Ann Landers, that famous columnist, used to condemn divorce, but now tells her readers, "If two absolutely can't get along together, it is better to divorce than to spend their lives fighting each other." That is human reasoning, and coming from Ann Landers, we can expect it. But it is tragic when that kind of reasoning is heard among our plain people to justify church divisions, worst of all, sometimes even coming from ministers and bishops. Married couples who clash are not better off if they divorce; they are better off if they learn to get along with each other. If they divorce, that is to accept defeat, to give up trying, to admit that getting along is hopeless. As long as they are still living together, and trying to resolve their differences, there is still hope that a solution will be worked out. The same can be said of church splits. The Scripture, and not human reasoning, must remain our guide.

"2) Both divorces and church splits cause suffering of innocent victims. The true victims of divorce are the children. What can be more unfair to a child than to ask him to choose between father and mother, when he desperately needs both? Who can count the emotionally mixed-up children in the world today who are the results of broken homes. In every church division, there are also many young people, and even children, who are scarred for life by the atmosphere of ill will and tension. They are the innocent victims of broken



churches.

"3) Both are the results of wrong attitudes toward authority. In nearly every divorce case, there is a wrong concept of authority in two ways. First, those who have been given authority over others, misuse it. And those who are under authority, disrespect it. Each excuses himself because the other is out of his place. The same is surely true in most church divisions. God has set people in the church in positions of authority, but that authority is easily misused. God has also commanded people in the church to respect the authority set over them, but that is far too often disrespected. Divisions are the fruit."

This writer recognizes that in the past there have been times when Christians had to organize and withdraw from a corrupt organization. But for brethren to disagree and divide because of it, there can be no Scriptural or reasonable justification.

In the words of Paul (I Corinthians 1:10), I would close with this personal appeal: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

—L.C.

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## MEDITATION

### VANITY AND VEXATION vs. HOPE

Soloman, the wise man, was allowed to follow all his desires in his natural life. After he tried them, he said all was vanity and vexation of spirit. Jesus and the resurrection gave us a lively hope of something far better. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Romans 15:13) "For we are saved by hope..." (Romans 8:24) "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." (Hebrews 6:19)

—Ernest Wagner Modesto, California

## FIT FOR THE MASTER'S USE

"Jesus use me, and O Lord don't refuse me,  
For surely there's a work that I can do;  
And even though it's humble,  
Help my will to crumble;  
Though the cost be great, I'll work for you."

Chorus to the hymn "Jesus, Use Me."

Are we willing to be used of Jesus even though the cost is great? I'm sure we do want to be used of God, because we love Him and want to promote His cause in this world. But have we considered what we might have to suffer to be used of Him? When we think on what some of the patriarchs and prophets of old went through in the process of being used of God, we wonder if we really do love Him that much.

Consider Joseph, the beloved one of Jacob's twelve sons. First, Joseph had to suffer because of his brothers' jealousy. They hated him. We all know how awful we feel when someone hates us! Are we willing to suffer hatred to be used of God?

Then his brothers sold Joseph as a slave to the Egyptians. Can we imagine the fear and terror in this young boy's heart as he faced an unknown future in a strange land, among foreign people—and as a slave yet? Who of us wants to be sold as a slave, much as a cow or horse would be sold?

Joseph had a hard life of labor among the Egyptians. He also had temptations to face. His master, Potiphar, saw that God was with him and that Joseph could be trusted. So, eventually, he had given his whole house and all possessions into Joseph's capable hands. Life in Egypt apparently wasn't so hard for Joseph at this time, although he was probably homesick and missed his mother and father.

But then things went wrong again! His mistress tried to demean him by her feminine wiles. Joseph was steadfast and true to his trustworthiness and would not give in to her guile. Finally the mistress was so angry she made it appear that Joseph had demeaned her,

and his master believed his wife, instead of giving Joseph a chance. He had Joseph—inocent Joseph—cast into prison! Are we ready to be innocently cast into prison? (Was Potiphar's wife being used of God, even in her sin?)

God was using Joseph and this was all part of His great plan. Even in prison, Joseph was favored, and life must not have been too hard. Meanwhile, Pharoah's butler and baker were being used of God, too. They'd offended Pharoah and were put in prison with Joseph. Both dreamed dreams, which Joseph correctly interpreted for them. When the butler was restored to the king's palace again, God further used him (two years later) to get Joseph out of prison by telling Pharoah that he could interpret dreams.

Now God was really going to use Joseph in a big way! He'd taken years to prepare Joseph for this time. But, now he, by God's Spirit, interpreted Pharoah's dreams and told him what to do to save the people from starvation during the seven years of famine. We all know the story. If not, read it in Genesis 41-46. Eventually, it turned out that God used Joseph to bring the Hebrews to Egypt, and to give them land and possessions there, where they multiplied greatly.

Meanwhile, what about Joseph's brothers? Were they used of God? Yes, indeed. Think of the years of remorse and guilt they must have suffered, knowing what they'd done to their brother. And we all know it is miserable living with a lie hanging over our conscience. Remember, they'd lied to their father about what had become of Joseph. They suffered in the famine years and went to Egypt for food, little knowing it was their own despised brother saving them. But, even these trips were not pleasant, because Joseph dealt harshly with them and there were strange things taking place during these trips that scared them.

Yet, finally—years after they'd sold Joseph—they were privileged to "see" that God had used them to fulfill His plan and to save His people from the dreadful famine.



Even so, although we often fall and sin, and spend days, months, and even years with guilty consciences, or in remorse, God can use our failures!

It is through the weakness of the flesh that we sometimes fall into sin, but God can turn even this to His purpose if we belong to Him. It may be only to help us be more humble; to show us our own frail selves; to show us how we need His strength and guidance; to humble us before our brethren and sisters (or even before the world!); to let us experience the wonderful feeling of cleansing and forgiveness through Jesus Christ; to show the world that we are human like they are, but we have an "Advocate" for our sins through accepting Jesus' atoning work on the cross.

But we all know the law of sowing and reaping. So we must be willing to suffer the results of our sins. If we've lied to someone, although we apologize, it may be a long time until they trust us again. If we've caused someone to lose faith, and they are eternally lost, no matter how hard we try to make amends, we will always in this life suffer mental anguish for it. But, even this, God can use to make us more careful and zealous to win souls. If, in a moment of carelessness, God allows us to cause a car wreck and injure or kill someone, we will have to live with that in our minds throughout our life. I believe God can, and does, forgive in such case, but still, there is His law of "...whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7b)

We must also be willing to suffer to be used of God when others sin against us. This often brings great opportunity to witness for the Lord; to manifest His Spirit to the one offending us as well as to all who are watching. Could we even, perhaps, consider it a privilege to think that God would find us fit for such use?

I would encourage all of us to seek ways to glorify God in all our trials and unpleasant times, knowing He allows these times to come upon us to fit us for further service in His Kingdom, as well as to use us now. It's

always easier to labor on and be happy when we are feeling useful, but it's difficult to always feel useful. Sometimes our use might simply be praying for others while sitting at home alone. Small and unnoticeable, yet so vital.

Humbly submitted in the Master's service  
Linda L. Frick  
Bradford, Ohio

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### KATHAROS DIANOIA

(continued)

A VAIN MIND: "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind... (but) be renewed in the spirit of your mind." (Eph. 4:17,23). "The preacher" saw everything as vanity. "Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity." (Ec. 11:10) "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (Ec. 12:13) Without God in our life, our walk here on earth seems as endless, aimless toil. Even worldly pleasures are meaningless, monotonous. But with Christ in our hearts, our life takes on new perspectives. Suddenly our life becomes full of meaning. Our walk becomes purposeful with grateful toil. Our pleasures become unworldly, for our pleasure is in serving Christ. When we accept Christ, we can more fully appreciate "the preacher's" sermon and the emptiness, vanity of this world!

A FLESHLY, CORRUPT, CARNAL, WICKED MIND: "Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." (Col. 2:18) "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith." (II Tim. 3:8)

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts." (Psalm 10:4)

A SHAKEN MIND: "...That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." (II Thess. 2:2) I think we all know what it's like to be "shook up" from some mishap or accident. We are unstable and unable to think straight, over- or under-reacting to the situation. To have a stable mind requires faith in that Word and conviction.

A WILLING MIND: "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now..." (I Chr. 28:9,10).

Too often we are like the little boy who was happily playing ball with his dear grandma. She was the pitcher and he was the slugger. And what a slugger he was! Grandma would carefully toss the ball and he would swing that bat furiously—and miss! Time after time he did his best to show grandma what a great slugger he was. Finally, he slung the plastic bat down and shouted angrily at grandma; "You did it again, Grandma; you missed my bat again!" How often we let troubles and problems get us down, and we look to the Lord accusingly, "You did it again; you missed my heart again"! But no, it's not the Pitchers problem, it's us batters who are missing those perfect pitches. We can bend our knees and bow our heads and still miss. We need to examine ourselves and see who really is lord of our life—the Lord, or the world. Only then will we see, and can confess, "I missed again, Lord."

"For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves." (II Cor. 8:3) Are we willing to go beyond our means, to rely on Him as provider of all things? "For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a



man hath, and not according to that he hath not." (v.12)

"So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. (I Thess. 2:8) We must be willing to give ourselves to our brethren to have a fulfilling relationship with them and with God.

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." (Psalm 110:3)

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:19)

Bill Gaither wrote the following verse which sums it up well and would be good to keep close to our hearts:

Make me willing to wait patiently  
For the answers I've prayed for so long.  
Make me willing to listen to Thee  
And to say, not my will, but Thine be done.  
Make me willing to thank Thee for tears  
And for heartaches that calls me to pray.  
Will You make me a vessel the Master can use?  
Keep me willing the rest of my days.

(To be continued) Ron Cable, Goshen, Indiana

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"Wait in the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."  
(Psalm 27:14)

If we wait or have patience, and have courage, God will strengthen our hearts. The promise is not to strengthen our arms or our wills but our hearts. This is the place of our emotions and affections. We will not harm people this way but will have strong love for them, strong sympathy, strong mercy, strong hope, and strong desire for the salvation of all. —L.C.

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Try making a list of things we have in common rather than the things that would divide us. Christians become more alike as they become more like Jesus.  
"Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain..."

## OBITUARY

ORVILLE JAMES HALL, son of Eli and Ella (Baker) Hall, was born February 8, 1915, near Potsdam, Ohio, and passed away at Wayne Hospital in Greenville, Ohio, February 9, 1985, at the age of 70 years and one day.

On March 14, 1936 he was united in marriage with Goldie E. Hollinger. To this union were born four children: Mrs. Larry (Mary) Beasecker of Union City, Indiana; Mrs. Wade (Violet) Flora of Brazil, South America; Mrs. Robert (Ellen) Shields of Greenville, Ohio; and Mrs. Mark (Deborah) Seymour of Chad, Africa; and 12 grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a brother, Lester, and two sisters, Mae Lambert and Mary Alice Garber.

As a young man he accepted Christ as his Savior. At the time of his death he was a member of the Harris Creek Church of the Brethren. He attended church as long as health would permit.

He was active in farming all of his life. He retired 12 years ago, moving to Horatio, Ohio.

He was a good provider for his family, and was very interested in his children's and grandchildren's welfare. The grandchildren always enjoyed the parties with their grandpa.

He will be sadly missed in the home and in the church.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Friday, February 15, at the Harris Creek Church of the Brethren by Pastors Harold Freeman and Howard Griffith. Scriptures read were Psalm 23, Psalm 103 and part of St. John 14. Songs sung were "How Great Thou Art," "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Meet Me There." Burial was made in the Oakland Cemetery near Gettysburg, Ohio.

—The Family—

## BIRTH

ROYER.—A son, Marcus Andrew, born February 22 to Thomas and Rebecca Royer of Nappanee, Indiana.

## HISTORICAL

## THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

The history of this book may be considered:

I. As looking back to the preceding gospels. The promises there made we here find made good, particularly the great promises of the descent of the Holy Ghost. The powers there lodged in them we here find exerted in miracles wrought on the bodies of people—miracles of mercy, miracles of judgment, and much greater miracles wrought on the minds of people. The proofs of Christ's resurrection with which the gospels closed are here abundantly corroborated according to the word of Christ, that His resurrection should be the most convincing proof of His divine mission. Christ had told His disciples that they should be His witnesses, and this book brings them in witnessing for Him. That day-spring from on high the first appearing of which we there discerned we here find shining more and more. The kingdom of heaven, which was then at hand, is here set up. Christ's predictions of the virulent persecutions which the preachers of the gospel should be afflicted with we here find abundantly fulfilled, and also the assurances He gave them of extraordinary supports and comforts under their sufferings. This latter part of the history of the New Testament exactly answers to the word of Christ in the former part of it: and thus they mutually confirm and illustrate each other.

II. As looking forward to the following epistles. This book introduces them and is a key to them. We are members of the Christian church, that tabernacle of God among men. Now this book gives us an account of the framing and rearing of that tabernacle. The four gospels showed us how the foundation of that house was laid; this shows us how the superstructure began to be raised; Among the Jews and Samaritans; among the Gentiles.

Two things more are to be observed concerning this book: (1) The penman of it. It was written by Luke, who wrote the third of the four gospels, which bears his name. This Luke was very much a companion of Paul



in his services and sufferings. "Only Luke is with me," (II Tim. 4:11) We may know by his style in the latter part of this book when and where he was with him, for then he writes, We did so and so, as 16:10; 20:6 (2) The title of it: "The Acts of the Apostles." (1) It is the history of the apostles; yet there is in it the history of Stephen, Barnabas, and some other apostolical men. It is the history of Peter and Paul only that is here recorded; Peter the apostle of the circumcision, and Paul the apostle of the Gentiles. (Gal. 2:7) (2) It is called their acts or doings. The apostles were active men; and though the wonders they did were by the word, yet they are fitly called their acts; they spoke, and it was done.

—Matthew Henry's Commentary  
pg. 434

#### 100 YEARS AGO

This article appeared 100 years ago in the February, 1885, Vindicator. We see that they were then (as we are now) concerned for their children. Someone has said that our children are the only thing we can take with us to glory.

#### THE YOUNG AND RISING GENERATION

Beloved members of the one faith, greeting: We believe it would be good for us to bring them (our children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4) Now, dear members, this is a command. Yet we see so many of us bringing up our children in the nurture of the world, and the excuse for so doing is like this: "Let them go as they desire until they become converted, and then let them become humble and plain members of the church." We say often that we want our children "to become members of Christ's body." Yet while many of us talk thus, we are, by the nurture we are giving these tender minds. only assisting the adversary to fasten his poisoned demon-like fangs in the heart, soul and spirit of our children. We do this by giving our children lesson daily, of pride, ambition

and avarice. Now, dear members, in much love we say in this thing we have not the mind of Christ. Now, in this kind of training we surely administer to them the very doctrines and practices that will poison the soul and spirit, and lessen the probability of them filling our places in the church after we are dead; perhaps cripple their usefulness in the vineyard of the Lord. Oh members, think. The Lord makes it our duty to strive to develop the "Life Force" of the soul and spirit of our children, "and not yield ourselves as instruments of the adversary by sowing in their tender minds the seeds of a corrupt doctrine and thereby rust and corrode the talent that God has given them; but rather let us carefully train them in all the Chrisitan graces, as early and as fast as their mental development will admit of, then we can feel that our duty is done and them we can hope that our children will be saved.

—W. S. Noe Auburn, Illinois

Selected by John Schonwald

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#### COMMUNION NOTICE

We, the members of the eastern district of the Old Brethren, have appointed a Lovefeast and Communion for April 6 & 7 at the Waksrusa meeting house. The Lord willing, we are looking forward to a time of sweet fellowship and feeding upon His Word. A hearty invitation is extended to all of our brethren, sisters, and friends.

—Melvin Coning

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#### BAPTISM

We of the Salida Congregation rejoiced greatly when another precious soul, Jonathan Garber, was received into our fellowship February 17 by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and Holy Baptism. May he be faithful and helpful in the Kingdom of God.

—Joseph L. Cover

## FOR YOUTH

## WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT GO TO WAR

I have been reading in the Bible on war, and I have gotten some ideas.

From the Bible:

Deuteronomy 5:17: "Thou shalt not kill."

Matthew 19:18: "He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder..."

Matthew 5:44: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

John 18:36: "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

There are billions of dollars wasted on war and millions of lives are lost, causing hunger, heart-aches, widows, and fatherless. Many fathers are separated from their children, and many mothers lose their sons.

War destroys what God creates. It hurts those whom Christ came to heal. It mocks the love of God and his commandment of love. It is the opposite of the way of reconciliation. It breeds hatred and deception and cruelty.

Through his death, Jesus conquered the world and triumphed over His enemies. Jesus, in practicing nonresistance, was not a weak and helpless person. He taught us the powers of God are far superior to carnal and worldly forces for meeting the aggressions of evil men.

—Lynn Cardin  
New Lebanon, Ohio

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds...

—II Corinthians 10:3,4



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### "Lessons From Nature" Series

#### SHAPES

If you are like most children, you enjoy the different shapes God has made. You like to draw stars with five points, and boats with triangular sails. You love to watch the round ball of a moon change every night until it becomes a crescent-shaped sliver of light.

Shapes are wonderful. God made them to help us tell things apart. We can instantly tell a banana from an orange by its shape. A walnut has a shape that is different from the shape of a pecan. An oak tree is shaped differently from a maple tree or a redbud, and their leaves have different shapes, too.

Did you ever use a bright lamp at school to make shadow silhouettes of the faces of all the students? You were probably surprised to see that you could tell most of your friends apart just by the shape of their heads!

Do you think God could take something that is invisible and give it a special shape so people could see it and understand it? Jesus, Who is part of the eternal spiritual Godhead, took upon Himself the form (shape) of a man and looked like other men. When He was baptized, a strange thing happened. "The Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him." and a special voice was heard.

By giving the invisible Spirit the shape of a common peaceable bird, God burned into the people's memories a wonderful truth.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## GLORYING IN THE CROSS

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,  
Which before the cross I spend;  
Life, and health, and peace possessing,  
From the sinner's dying Friend.

Here I'll sit, forever viewing  
Mercy's streams, in streams of blood,  
Precious drops, my soul bedewing,  
Plead and claim my peace with God.

Truly blessed is this station,  
Low before his cross to lie;  
While I see divine compassion  
Floating in his languid eye.

Here it is I find my heaven,  
While upon the cross I gaze;  
Love I much? I'm more forgiven—  
I'm a miracle of grace.

Love and grief my heart dividing,  
With my tears his feet I'll bathe,  
Constant still in faith abiding,  
Life deriving from his death.

May I still enjoy this feeling,  
In all need to Jesus go;  
Prove his wounds each day more healing,  
And himself more fully know.

By James Allen

## BROKEN FOR YOU

Do we all recognize the words of the title? They come from Paul's record of Jesus' words at the Last Supper: "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." Luke records almost the same words: "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." Jesus was speaking to "the twelve." But do we think His words were only to them? If we really believe Jesus included us in this declaration, it will mean the ransom of our souls.

Seven centuries earlier, Isaiah had written, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." What kind of love prompted this act? What kind of Person could do this for us? What should our response be to this kind of love and this kind of Person?

The story is told of a girl who could not get used to her mother's hands that were so scarred and ugly. But one day her mother told her of the terrible fire in their house when her hands were badly burned as she rescued her baby daughter. From then on she loved her mother's hands that had saved her life at such great cost.

We can all relate to this story as we remember our own parents and their lives of sacrifice for their children. No doubt many scars, bruises, sicknesses and heartaches were endured for the sake of dear children. My mother bore me with pain and anguish in times of depression into an already large family. But she didn't die for me; she was not broken for me the way my Saviour was.

My father worked hard to provide for us children. He took jobs that were not really his type of work—because jobs were scarce and his family needed food and clothing. But he wasn't broken for me the way my Saviour was. And my father couldn't have healed me of my



transgressions even if he had died for me.

David wept for Absalom and would have died for him. We might be willing to die for our children. And at times in the past men sacrificed their children to atone for their own sins. Micah questions fervently: "...Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" (6:7) No, none of these sacrifices will atone for sin. It took the blood of the Lamb of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Then Paul writes so pointedly to all believers. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Corinthians 6:19,20)

If we believe these things, can we be deluded into thinking that God will not require our devotion in return? Isaac Watts wrote in 1707:

"Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

We sometimes become so bothered, so worried, so desperate when things don't go our way. Jesus died for me and rose again that I might live for eternity. He offers life to all. What else matters? Should not our best effort, no, our total effort, our total commitment all our love, our concern be for our Lord? How can we find room to quarrel, to worry, to be selfish, to want our own way, to withhold love and forgiveness, to fail to encourage...? How can we be still when our neighbors, our friends, and the world need the testimony of Jesus? C.F. Yoder wrote in God's Means of Grace "It is not what the world calls success that the Lord requires. It is faithfulness."

Let our lives be swallowed up in the love and service of God. Let our selfish wills be subdued and the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus be represented in our thoughts, words and deeds. He was "broken for you (us)": let us live for Him. —L.C.

## SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

"Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord and the power of his might." (Eph. 6:10) If there ever was a time requiring spiritual strength, it is this our day. The church in our country has been granted religious freedom, and, with few exceptions, Christians have experienced little outward persecution. Outward oppression directed toward any group, whether a nation or a church, will tend to unite that group. Is it possible that by reason of our blessed religious freedom we have become weak and lack the united strength to resist the forces which threaten our spiritual unity? I will say as did the apostle Paul, "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you..." True, we may let down our guard at times, but we have a source of strength whereby we can rise to any occasion. Dearly beloved, let us build up our spiritual strength lest Satan should get the advantage.

Our bodies require proper nourishment; so also does our spiritual well-being. Calcium deficiency may result in muscle cramps. We may experience cramps in our spiritual life as a result of a deficiency in God's Word. Vitamins are necessary for the body to utilize nourishment properly. Prayer and meditation is necessary for the Holy Spirit to direct our minds in, "rightly dividing the word of truth." "God is love" and any use of His Word without this spirit of charity will result in stress and misunderstanding. Many parallels can be made comparing the natural body to our spiritual being. The point we wish to make is that a healthy body requires proper nourishment, good hygiene, and adequate exercise. Likewise good spiritual health requires proper nourishment from God's Word, good care through prayer and meditation, and adequate exercise by Christian work and witness.

A run down, unhealthy, and tired person performs poorly and is susceptible to disease and failure. Similarly when we neglect our spiritual life we perform poorly and are susceptible to spiritual blight.

One of the most manifest symptoms of spiritual weakness is the inclination to consider self above one's neighbor, fellow Christian, or family member. I have experienced this in my own life. We are so sure we are correct and our neighbor is in error that we become more engrossed in proving our point than we are of helping our neighbor or brother. How much more effective we could be if we approached our fellow believers with a compliment on their virtues rather than by pointing out their faults. You will note how the Apostle Paul in writing to erring churches often addressed them complimenting them for their virtues. The manifestations of spiritual weaknesses are too numerous to dwell on, but they all tend to lower our resistance to Satan's influence upon our attitudes and actions. The remedy for spiritual weakness is to become strong in the Lord by following the prescription of God's Word. Giving up our egoistic exertions is difficult, but it can be accomplished through prayer and rejecting self. When this is accomplished the Holy Spirit can refresh and strengthen us.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Colossians 3:12-17)

—Joseph E. Wagner  
Modesto, California



## AM I A JUDAS?

The other day at work, there was a board on the floor that I wanted, so I stopped to pick it up. There was a brother behind me that had to wait till I had gotten it. He said, "What thou doest, do quickly." I looked at him, and then he said, "That was Christ telling Judas." His next words have stuck with me: "But you are not a Judas, are you?" I said, "I don't know sometimes, what I am. He said, 'I know you are not,' All day, I asked myself, 'Am I a Judas?'"

No, I haven't openly denied or betrayed Christ. We have heard that we only love Jesus as much as we love our worst enemy. We are told to love our enemies. If I cannot love my enemy, I cannot love Christ, because the Bible also says if we love Christ, we will keep His commandments. I John 5:2: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." We can also say, "If we do not love the children of God, neither do we love God, or keep His commandments."

In Judges we read about Samson and his mighty strength. 16:4: "And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah." When the Philistines heard of this, they saw chance to get even. They told Delilah to "Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him." It seems when we have someone that has wronged us, we can think of all kinds of evil to get even. But remember, Jesus says we are to "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." (Mat. 5:44) In verse 18 of chapter 16 "And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the Lords of the Philistines saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines, came up unto her, and brought money in their hand." Finally, after the fourth time, Delilah betrayed her lover. Let's be

truthful, and think back over our lives, have we betrayed our fellow man, and in turn, betrayed Christ? I can only hang my head in shame for my weakness.

In Psalms 41:9, David says, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." There is a special pain, when our friends turn against us, but who has had his friends turn against him like our Lord? In one place it says "and they all forsook him, and fled." There are times in our walk of life that we feel forsaken, but no matter how many of our friends have turned against us, we still have one that "sticketh closer than a brother."

Psalms 55:12-13: "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance." Even though we are to love our enemies, and do good to them, we still have a special love for our brethren and close friends. So when a friend rejects us, it has a hurt that otherwise we do not feel so keenly. David says if it would have been an enemy, he could have borne it; if it was one that hated him, then he would have hid from him. I, in a small way, can realize what it is to have a close friend reject me. There is a sadness that goes with us wherever we are. On the other hand, I can see if we had someone that hated us, and had done us wrong, in a figurative way, we could hide, and soon forget. But David says, "But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and my acquaintance."

Matthew 10:21: "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death." 24:10: "And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another." Do we have hate in our hearts towards our fellowmen? My Bible says if I hate my brother, I am a murderer, and, therefore, I know no

murderer hath eternal life. I have many loved ones, that have gone on to their reward, and I know many of you do, too. We want to live lives so someday we can be in Heaven with all the saints. So let's all try to love each other as Christ loved us, and cleanse our hearts of hatred.

Matthew 26 tells how Judas went to the chief priests "and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?" "And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him." I am sure from that time on, Judas was a very miserable man. The One he had learned to love and commune with, who had such a tender heart, who would hurt no one, he has promised to betray. Verse 48,49: "Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him." To betray Jesus was bad enough, but with a kiss, the very symbol that represents love and peace. To me, when I greet a brother with a kiss, I am telling him, "I love you, and will be true to you." There have been times when I haven't lived up to that. In other words there have been times when I was a Judas. But with God's grace, and tender mercy, I have been forgiven. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

—Everett Oyler  
New Paris, Indiana

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### KATHAROS DIANOIA (continued)

ONE MIND, UNITY: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." (I Peter 4:1,2)

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." (Rom. 12:5) "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor



free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28)

Christian fellowship is a result of unity. In Malachi 3:16, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another..." Not only is it comforting to be with those of the same mind; it is encouraging and strengthening. As the saying goes, "Birds of a feather flock together."

The Saviour prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21) "For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us..." (Eph. 2:14)

Just as a man cleaves to his wife and they be one flesh, so shall Christians be one spirit.

This is not to imply that we should be agreed in every tiny aspect of thought. We all have different tastes, different desires and different ideas. We each have our own personalities and temperaments. Therefore we will have different opinions. It is up to us to keep opinions from clashing. We must be tolerant, respectful of one another's opinions and refrain from trying to force ours. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6) If we have the mind of Christ and therefore the love of Christ, we won't need to worry about unity; it will be the spiritual result.

When our hearts are in tune with Christ, our minds will be in tune with those whose hearts are also in tune with Christ. This is how the unity of the Spirit is kept in the bond of peace.

A SOBER MIND: "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded." (Titus 2:6) "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (v. 12) "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." (I Peter 4:7) "For I

say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Romans 12:3)

Does this mean that Christians cannot laugh? No! For we also are to be joyous. We're dealing with our outlook on life. How do we view life? Have we a do-as-you-please, enjoy-it-while-you-can life; with full attention on self, little regard to morality, and no consideration of death and of life beyond death? This is a worldly mind, far from being serious, or sober, but always seeking fun and a good time regardless of the Spirit that constrains the sober-minded, Spirit-filled Christian. "Life is real! Life is earnest! The grave is not its goal, but eternal life for the soul!" (See our hymnbook, #510)

So, we're not talking about a condition of the face, but the condition of the mind. The condition of the world is very sobering indeed. People are experiencing fear and horror almost world-wide because of wars, shootings, violence of all kinds, the threat of a nuclear holocaust, famines, droughts, floods, unstable governments, etc. The important question is, "Do they fear God?" We should place our fear and trust in Him and all these other things won't really matter, for He is in control!

Does a surgeon perform his operations carelessly, half-heartedly, with sloppy incisions and excisions, not caring about the end results? No! We should be as surgeons, diligent and careful, wholehearted in our work, precise in our incisions and excisions of life with its tumors of sin and temptations, prayerfully and soberly removing them; then gingerly stitching the wound so as to leave the least scar possible. In this frame of mind can we live soberly and righteously before our God.

(To be continued)

—Ronald L. Cable  
Goshen, Indiana

## NEWS FROM BRAZIL

We'd like to share some things with you from here in Brazil. God allowed us to purchase a house and lot in April, 1984, for a place to worship Him. We had our dedication service the last Sunday in April to dedicate it to the Lord. We had our first worship service in God's house the first Sunday in May. We had been having our services in different homes, so we thanked the Lord for a permanent place to worship Him.

We had our church services in a small front room with chairs and benches with no backs set around the walls. As more attended we tore out a wall and had the church services in a big room across the front of the house.

We had our church services in the morning, but the custom here is to have them in the evening, so we changed the time to 7:30 P.M. as the people here are accustomed to eating dinner at 11:00 and cooking it as they are ready to eat it since a lot don't have refrigeration.

We ordered benches to be made in May for the church, and the man said they would be ready July 15th. But since this is Brazil, and no one gets in a hurry except us Americans, half of them were finished in September and the other half in November.

The poorer people don't have cars here, so you can't tell who is going to be at church by the cars parked in front, as there aren't any. Some come on bicycles; the ones that live close walk; and the others we pick up in our car. Our car is known as the "sardine can" because it is always so full of people packed in like sardines. We make two or three trips, so the people wait at the church while we pick up the others. A lot of them aren't ready when we get there, so you have to wait until they finish getting ready. Sometimes they have to take a bath, change clothes and get ready while we wait on them. The people here don't change clothes unless they bathe first. Some evenings, instead of church starting at 7:30, it starts at 8:15 until we get everyone picked up and to church. Time isn't important



to most people here, so it is unusual for anything to start on time. Some people don't even have a watch or clock.

The room for services is getting so crowded now, so we need to tear out more walls and order more benches made for which we praise the Lord.

Our church services are conducted by opening the services with hymns chosen by the congregation, then the Old Testament reading and a welcome and remarks and singing, then prayer. The New Testament chapter is read and talked on. Then time is given for testimonies, questions, or anything anyone has. Since these people are not used to hearing the Word of God, we feel it is necessary to have their questions answered when they have questions to ask. More songs are sung chosen by the people; then closing prayer and dismissal.

Everyone says the Lord's prayer after each prayer has been prayed. The people tell us how much they like a whole chapter read instead of just a few verses here and there in the Bible as they feel they are getting the truth. They also enjoy the informality, and each one present is free to take part by choosing hymns, asking questions, or giving testimonies and saying the Lord's prayer together.

May we ask an interest in your prayers that God's Word can be given to these people and His name be glorified.

—Wade & Violet Flora  
Rio Verde, Goias, Brazil

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### MEDITATION

#### ENVY

The spirit of the natural man lusteth to envy. Apostle Paul in speaking of charity listed envy first of the things we need to overcome to possess charity. Probably envy has caused more hatred, war, and strife than any other sin. The Scriptures tell us Pilate saw the Jews had brought Jesus to him for envy. It also caused Cain to slay Abel.

—Ernest Wagner

## HISTORICAL

## HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

## PAUL'S EPISTLES

The section of our Bible containing Paul's epistles is of primary importance to us, for here are given the great doctrinal truths of the Christian faith. Epistles are letters—in this case, letters of Paul to churches or groups of Christians. Paul's concern for the people who had been converted under his ministry did not end when he left their cities. It is apparent that he eagerly heard news brought from the churches by his co-workers. He even sent various ones to find out how certain groups were faring.

These letters were sent from Paul by personal messengers. There was no postal system available to him like ours is to us today. Friends carried messages when they travelled from place to place.

Our outline of these epistles will be concerned mostly with the dates, places, and circumstances of their writing.

## ROMANS

The Epistle to the Romans was written from Corinth in winter of A.D. 57-58. It was carried to Rome by a sister named Phoebe, "a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea." (a seaport town near Corinth) She was likely a very able and generous (possibly wealthy) sister as Paul recommends to the Romans, "That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also." (16:2) The epistle was written by Tertius, and he inserts his personal greeting in 16:22. Paul sends greeting to about twenty-five Romans whom he names. He also sends greeting from various Corinthians.

This epistle, though it is written as a letter, stands as one of the greatest works on the doctrines of the Christian faith: the lost condition of both Jew and Gentile, justification by faith in Christ, and the principles of holy living.

## 100 YEARS AGO

This selected article from the February, 1885, Vindicator tells of the true beauty.

## HOW TO GROW BEAUTIFUL

Persons may outgrow disease and become healthy by proper attention to the laws of their physical constitution. By moderate and daily exercise, men become active and strong in limb and muscle. But to grow beautiful, how? Age dims the lustre of the eye, and pales the roses on beauty's cheek; while crow's feet and furrows and wrinkles and lost teeth and grey hairs and bald head and tottering limbs and limping, most sadly mar the human form divine. But, dim as the eye is, pallid and sunken as may be the face of beauty, and frail and feeble that once strong, mortal soul, just fledging its wings for its home in heaven, may look out through those faded windows as beautiful as the dew-drop of summer's morning, as melting as the tears that glisten in affection's eye, by growing kindly, by cultivating sympathy with all human kind, by cherishing forbearance towards the follies and foibles of our race, and feeding day by day, on that love to God and man which limits us from the brute, and makes us akin to angels.

—Selected by John Schonwald

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## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Old Brethren Church will be held, the Lord willing, on May 24, 25, and 26 at the Salida, California, meeting house. Friday will be council day; on Saturday and Sunday (Pentecost), there will be public preaching; and on Saturday evening, the Communion service. A hearty invitation and welcome is extended to all our members and friends to attend.

—Joseph L. Cover

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## BIRTH

BOONE — A daughter, Krista Brooke, born March 19 to Stephen and Neva Boone of New Lebanon, Ohio.



FOR YOUTH  
THE SET OF THE SAIL

I stood on the shore beside the sea;  
The wind from the west blew fresh and free,  
While past the rocks at the harbour's mouth  
The ships went north, and the ships went south  
And some sailed out on an unknown quest,  
And some sailed into the harbour's rest;  
Yet ever the wind blew out of the west.

I said to one who had sailed the sea  
That this was a marvel unto me;  
For how can the ships go safely forth,  
Some to the south and some to the north,  
Far out to sea on their golden quest,  
Or into the harbour's calm and rest,  
And ever the wind blew out of the west.

The sailor smiled as he answered me,  
"Go where you will when you're on the sea,  
Though head winds baffle and flaws delay,  
You can keep your course by night or day,  
Drive with the breeze, or against the gale;  
It will not matter what winds prevail,  
For all depends on the set of the sail.

Voyager soul on the sea of life,  
O'er waves of sorrow and sin and strife,  
When fogs bewilder and foes betray,  
Steer straight on your course from day to day;  
Though unseen currents run deep and swift,  
Where rocks are hidden and sandbars shift,  
All helpless and aimless, you need not drift.

Oh, set your sail to the heavenly gale,  
And then, no matter what winds prevail,  
No reef shall wreck you, no calm delay,  
No mist shall hinder, no storm shall stay,  
Though far you wander and long you roam,  
Through salt sea-spray and o'er white sea-foam,  
No wind that can blow but shall speed you Home.

—Annie Johnson Flint  
Selected by Rosanna Cover

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### "Lessons From Nature" Series

#### ESTABLISHING A TERRITORY

Every spring, we observe an interesting bit of bird behavior. The various swallows and robins and wrens return to our area, and the bluejays and woodpeckers and cardinals that have stayed to spend the winter with us begin "establishing their territories."

Each pair of nesting birds will need a large enough area of home territory to give them a sufficient supply of natural foods for raising their young birds to maturity. God has given the different kinds of birds the instinct to know about how much feeding ground they will need. But, like people, the birds need some way to mark the boundaries of their "food property" so there will not be too much trespassing from other bird neighbors.

Birds, of course, cannot drive fenceposts or hang up "No Trespassing" signs. So God has given them the strange habit of flying in a regular circuit from one corner of their "property" to the next. At each stop they sing loudly to let other birds of their own species know that they are "claiming" that space of land for their own feeding ground. If no other bird challenges them, they soon fly on to their next post to sing their claim there. Many times during the day will they do this, and often on a regular schedule.

As children grow up, they also need to "find themselves," and to let other people know where they stand on various issues. Is it possible that they can do it unselfishly, like the sweetly-singing birds? They most certainly can! May we all rejoice in the sweet music of cooperation.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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# THE PILGRIM

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart:  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move.  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King?  
All, all Thine own—soul, heart and strength and mind.  
I see Thy cross—there teach my heart to cling;  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find.

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear—  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love,  
One holy passion filling all my frame:  
The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove—  
My heart an altar and Thy love the flame.

—George Croly, 1780-1860



## POWER OF THE SPIRIT FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

What would you think of a horse that would not allow a rider and could not be hitched to a cart or implement of any kind? There once was such a horse at a fair. A man seeing him and the beauty of his form inquired if he were a riding horse. The man leading the horse replied, "No sir, this horse will buck off a saddle. Nothing can stay on his back." The visitor then asked, "Is he a driving horse then?" "No, he was hitched up once and made kindling wood of the vehicle he should have pulled." "Well, what is he good for?" was the next question. The horseman answered, "Style, man, style. Just look at the picture he makes."

That horse is like some other things out of place: a knife that can't cut; a car that won't run; a book with blank pages; salt that has lost its savour; a Christian who doesn't follow Christ.

A sister remarked recently that she had known Jesus as her Saviour but not until later had she known Him as her Lord. In other words, she had not learned to obey and follow Jesus and recognize Him as the Ruler of her life.

This all points out a human fault or a condition of selfishness that is not at all uncommon for us mortals. We want blessings without burdens, privileges without pressure, and freedom without responsibility. Jesus tells us (John 12:26), "If any man serve me; let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be..."

To follow Jesus—to be where He is—to obey Him as we claim to love Him. Perhaps this sounds like a big order. It is. In fact, it is an impossible one if God were to expect us to accomplish discipleship and obedience on our own. But God is not unfair; He is not like us. Sometimes we might expect our children to reach a standard they are not able to attain. But God gives grace and strength, ability and guidance when He gives a com-

mand.

For example, Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world, to preach the gospel, to teach men to observe all His commandments. But before they went, they were to wait. "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) The power of the Holy Spirit descending on the day of Pentecost was God's answer to man's inability. Without this power, they could never have spread the good news to all the world.

We, too, are to wait for power. God proposes to change our very natures by His Holy Spirit's control in our lives. See John 14:16-18, 14:26 and 15:7-15 for Jesus' description of the Holy Spirit's mission. He is to reprove or convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is to guide us, speak to us, and show us things to come. He is to glorify Jesus. Quietly effective, He is our Helper, our Heavenly Guide.

With such help we have no excuse for failing to follow. If we are "salt without savour" we cannot blame our Lord. Salt without savour has lost the characteristic that makes it salt. Christians who do not follow Christ—without holiness—have lost the very attributes that make them Christians.

What are some of these necessary characteristics? Paul lists them in Galatians 5:22,23 as the fruit of the Spirit. Peter calls them things to add "giving all diligence." (II Peter 1:5-7)

I would mention first the virtue of love. This is self-sacrificing love that reaches back up to God, out to other Christians, and extends beyond to all men—even enemies. It is Jesus new commandment (not an option) and He sums up even the ten Old Testament commandments as love to God and to fellowmen. A Christian without love is a book with blank pages.

Devotion, consisting of prayer, Bible study, and meditation, is a characteristic that helps make a Christian what he is. Devotion gives time and opportunity for the Holy Spirit to restore power in our lives.



Without it we are a car that won't run—out of gas.

In Ephesians 6:15, part of the Christian armor is having "your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." This is our Christian testimony. In some way we should be willing to communicate the gospel. We testify in words, but we must have more than words. A warm smile, an appearance of modesty harmonizing with Christian doctrine, a consistent life, a happy disposition, a submissive and teachable attitude: all these are part of the Christian testimony. Without it we are a knife that can't cut.

Truth and righteousness must certainly be obvious in our lives. No pretense or excuse will substitute. John writes simply: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he (God) is righteous." Without these characteristics we are salt without savour.

We could mention faith, patience, temperance, brotherly kindness and more. Peter, at the conclusion of his list of virtues, comments, "But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

Without claiming to be already perfect, without pride and self-righteousness, we still need to testify to the necessity of Christian holiness in our time. We see a shift away from Christian standards: breakdown of the family unit, permissiveness regarding children's (and adult's) conduct, obsession with entertainment and sports, moral breakdown comparable to Sodom's, and the pre-Flood imagination of the thoughts of the heart only evil continually. We must not think that we can live carelessly in a world like ours and be immune to the evils around us just because our fathers stood against "worldliness." As conservative Christians we must continue to uphold and practice obedience and growth as essential features in the lives of the children of God. Only the Holy Spirit of God can accomplish these as we yield to Him.

—L.C.



## NEWS FROM BRAZIL

## VISITS TO THE JAIL

The second Sunday of each month we meet at the city jail for services at 2:30 P.M. It started by a request, so we had to either accept it or reject it. But since the Bible says we should visit the prisons, we accepted the invitation. A lady that we know and love, whose son was in prison, asked us to go to see him. He asked us if we would hold a church service at the jail which everyone agreed to. The second time we had services, the prisoners and the guards asked us to come every Sunday. The guards said, it helps the spirits of the prisoners so much. We agreed on one Sunday a month, but for the prisoners, the time passes so slowly so they ask us if we disappeared or something until we go again.

We have singing, Bible reading, sometimes talks, and prayer. The prisoners and the guards take part in the services by singing. Passing out Christian tracts to the prisoners gives them something to read. They ask for Bibles, and one Sunday we passed out all the Bibles we had at their requests and had to borrow one for church that evening. They ask for hymn books, too.

These prisoners need our prayers, as many of them haven't had Godly parents to guide and teach them like we have had.

After leaving the jail, we visit the old peoples' home and sing and pray with them. We take refreshments to pass out to the old people to add an extra touch to their day.

—Wade and Violet Flora

Goias, Brazil, South America

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KATHAROS DIANOIA

(concluded)

A RIGHTEOUS MIND: "The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit." (Proverbs 12:5)

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matt. 5:6)

"...The righteousness which is of God by faith..." (Philippians 3:9)

Several years ago I was privileged to see the Passion Play in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Though I was watching actors, it didn't take much imagination to see the real Christ, the real tears, the real agony, the real love, that He had and has for us. Passion. Christ demonstrated the full meaning of the word. Passion is any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling. Intense, high-wrought emotion that compells to action. Even His distress was synonymous with passion. I would like to quote Billy Graham on passion and righteousness:

"There is only one passion that can help us control the many other passions which plague us; that is the passion to know and obey God. When this primary passion grows cold, we give in to the lower passions that would control us. When we get out of close relationship with Christ, we try to fill that aching void and loneliness with other things.

"...But in the struggle for righteousness, there is nothing more helpful than being passionately related to Christ through His Spirit—and being passionately committed to finding and doing His will in our lives." ("Approaching Hoofbeats" Copyright 1983. Word Books, Waco, Texas. Pp.56, 58)

"There are many doors today that people are going through which do not lead to the Kingdom of God. Some try the door of good works. They say, 'I can get to heaven if I only do enough good things, because God will honor all the good things I do.' It's wonderful to do good things, but we cannot do enough good things to satisfy God. God demands perfection, and we're not perfect. If we're going to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we have to be absolutely perfect. You ask, 'Well, how will I ever be perfect?' We need to be clothed in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus. There is one door to the Kingdom and it's Jesus. And we will never get to heaven unless we go His way.

"The Bible teaches that all our righteousness—falling short of the divine standard as it does—is as filthy rags in the sight of God. There is absolutely no possibility of our manufacturing a righteousness, holiness, or goodness that will satisfy God. Even the best of us is impure to God. I remember one day when my wife was doing the washing. The clothes looked white and clean in the house, but when she hung them on the line they actually appeared soiled and dirty, in contrast to the fresh-fallen snow. Our own lives may seem at times to be morally good and decent; but in comparison to the holiness and the purity of God, we are defiled and filthy. In spite of our sins and moral uncleanness, God loves us. He decided to provide a righteousness for us. That is the reason that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross."

"God says that only those who hunger after righteousness will receive it. God thrusts this heavenly manna on no one. You must desire it, above everything else. Your yearning for God must supersede all other desires. It must be like a gnawing hunger and a burning thirst." ("Day by Day with Billy Graham" Compiled and edited by Joan Winnmill Brown. Copyright 1976, World Wide Publications. Excerpts from sermons and writings.)

"...I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Rev. 21:6,7)

CONCLUSION: The mind is a mysterious mass of gray matter, sending out its tiny electrical signals controlling the body functions. Some of these are automatic; some are controlled by each individual's needs or desires. From the beginning, man was given the freedom to think; and because of man's destiny of a selfish and pleasure-loving nature, sin was conceived and wickedness flourished. We became our own god because we ignored God and chose to do whatever was our desire. Therefore confusion abounded. Men became obsessed with gross immorality. Many have pleaded insanity—using this as an excuse for their erotic



behaviour—when in fact they are reprobates. It is possible even that many diseases are acquired because of our wickedness. Perhaps our old-age afflictions are the fruits of our iniquities. Being around the aged I have often wondered this, seeing the varying degrees of suffering, the agony of some, the anger of others, the peace of acceptance and submission of those in the Lord. The peace of God truly "Passes all understanding" when we see a body racked with pain, or helpless, or blind, or deaf and this Spirit of Peace is present. We praise the Lord for it and only hope that we can face whatever may come our way in the fear of our Lord.

It is my desire that we would be more conscious of the state of our mind, which requires constant self-examination and evaluation. Is our mind "in the gutter," or on the "throne?" Are we eager to criticize when we should try to harmonize? Are we consistent, that is, do we try to force our ideas onto our brethren when we profess to be open-minded and tolerant?

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

Ronald L. Cable  
Goshen, Indiana

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#### MEDITATION: AFFLICTION FOR CORRECTION

Sometimes the Lord stops us in our path in life to turn us to a life more according to His plan. Hebrews 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but greivous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Psalm 119:71 "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." This attitude is contrary to our human nature, as every man's way is right in his own eyes.

—Ernest Wagner  
Modesto, California

## GOD'S BANK AIN'T BUSTED YET!

The bank had closed; my earthly store had  
vanished from my hand;

I felt that there was no sadder one than I in  
all the land.

My washerwoman, too, had lost her little  
mite with mine.

And she was singing as she hung the clothes  
upon the line.

"How can you be so gay?" I asked, "Your loss  
don't you regret?"

"Yes, ma'am, but what's the use to fret?  
God's bank ain't busted yet!"

I felt my burden lighter grow; her faith I  
seemed to share;

In prayer I went to God's great throne and  
laid my troubles there.

The sun burst from behind the clouds, in  
golden splendor set;

I thank God for her simple words: "God's  
bank ain't busted yet!"

And now I draw rich dividends, more than  
my hands can hold,

Of faith and love and hope and trust, and  
peace of mind untold,

I thank the Giver of it all, but still I can't  
forget

My washerwoman's simple words: "God's  
bank ain't busted yet!"

Oh, weary ones upon life's road, when every-  
thing seems drear,

And losses loom on every hand and skies  
seem not too clear,

Throw back your shoulders, lift your head,  
and cease to chafe and fret,

Your dividend will be declared; "God's bank  
ain't busted yet!"

Selected by Everett Oyler

## OBITUARIES

AARON BRUMBAUGH, son of George and Phebe Ann (Grossnickle) Brumbaugh, was born August 29, 1902, near Brookville, Montgomery County, Ohio, and peacefully departed this life March 31, 1985, at his farm home near Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio, making his sojourn in his mortal body 82 years, 7 months, and 2 days.

Early in life he answered the call of his Maker and was baptized into the Old German Baptist faith. This faith he earnestly contended for throughout his entire life, and was always willing to meet the problems which confronted his faith with holy fortitude, knowing that the trial of his faith was more precious than silver and gold. At the time of his passing he was a member of the Old Brethren fellowship which he loved.

On October 16, 1920, he was united in holy wedlock to Iva M. Young. To this union were born 3 children: William, Catherine, and Walter.

His entire life was spent in farming until his health failed. He always worked hard to provide for his family and the necessary things of life. We will have many precious memories of our dad, grandpa, companion, and friend.

Preceding him in death were two sisters, Lydia (Rapp) Cook, Iva Bayer; one brother, Noah; and one grandson.

Surviving are Iva, his companion of 64 years, being 89 years in age; three children: William, Catherine Garber, and Walter, all of rural route, Arcanum, Ohio; eight grandchildren; and fifteen great-grandchildren; also six brothers: Lewis of Flora, Indiana; Elmer of Arkansas; Amos of Brookville, Ohio; Henry of Camden, Indiana; Owen and Ezra of Bradford, Ohio.

We trust that our loss is his eternal gain, and commit him to the hands of an eternal and just God.

Services were held April 4 at 2:00 p.m. in Kreitzer's Funeral Home in Arcanum, Ohio, by Brother Hollis Flora and Brother Claude Boone. The 90th Psalm was read and talked from. Hymns used were #465, #392, #403, #389,



#378, and #409, all chosen by the family. Burial was in Mote Cemetery. "Home At Last!"

—The Family

WILLIAM BRUMBAUGH, son of Aaron and Iva (Young) Brumbaugh, was born August 30, 1922, near Painter Creek, Ohio, and passed away April 10, 1985, at the age of 62 years, 7 months, and 11 days.

On Sept. 5, 1943, he was united in marriage with Emma L. Garber, who survives. To this union were born two children, Erlene and Allen.

At an early age he accepted Christ as his Savior and at the time of his death was a member of the Old Brethren Church.

Dad was a farmer as long as his health permitted and drove a truck until his health prevented this also. About two years ago he became ill with a terminal disease from which he never fully recovered. He died with his family around him at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Emma; daughter, Erlene; son, Allen and his companion, Juanita; and two grandchildren, Blaine and Corinne. Also his mother, Iva (Young) Brumbaugh; one sister, Catherine (Mrs. Emanuel) Garber; one brother, Walter. His father Aaron, preceded him in death by only 10 days.

We trust our loss is his eternal gain.

Funeral services were conducted at 2:00p.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Old Brethren meetinghouse near Bradford by the home brethren. Scriptures used were Psalm 103 and John 5:25-29.

Burial was in the Mote Cemetery at Pittsburg.

—The Family

Why do we mourn departing friends,  
Or shake at death's alarms?  
'Tis but the voice that Jesus sends,  
To call them to His arms.

—Isaac Watts

## HISTORICAL

## HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

## I AND II CORINTHIANS

The beginning of the church at Corinth is recorded in Acts 18. As was his custom, Paul preached first in the synagogue. But when the Jews opposed him, he turned to the Gentiles. God spoke to Paul there assuring him that he would not be hurt, that he should boldly speak the Word and that "I have much people in this city." Paul stayed there a year and six months. This was about A.D. 52-53.

Corinth was a city of about 400,000, commercially one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. It lay on the Isthmus of Greece connecting the Peloponnesus to the main part of Greece. Two harbors served the city: to the west was Lechaum and farther to the east was Cenchrea. Merchandise and sometimes even small ships were hauled across this isthmus from one harbor to the other saving the long journey around the peninsula. Today a four mile canal connects the two gulfs across the isthmus. With such a location, Corinth prospered but also progressed in sin and idolatry. It was called "a renowned and voluptuous city, where the vices of East and West met."

Halley writes in his Handbook:

"About three years after Paul had left Corinth, while he was in Ephesus, some 200 miles to the east, across the Aegean Sea, doing the most marvelous work of all his marvelous life, a delegation of leaders of the Corinthian Church was sent to Ephesus to consult Paul about some very serious problems and disorders that had arisen in the Church. Then it was that Paul wrote this Letter (I Corinthians). He had written a previous Letter, now lost (5:9), possibly many of them. The two cities were on a busy trade route, with ships plying between constantly.

"Date: spring of A.D. 57, before Pentecost (16:8). He was planning to spend the following winter in Corinth (16:5-8), which he did (Acts 20:2,3)." Halley's

Bible Handbook page 593.

The second letter to the Corinthians was written later the same year (A.D. 57). From Paul's comments in this letter, it seems that he was on his way to Corinth by land passing north along the coast of Asia Minor and down through Macedonia visiting churches along the way. In Macedonia he met Titus bearing the news that the former letter had been effective in its admonition and correction of the church. He wrote the second epistle with further admonition and encouragement from Philippi in Macedonia and sent it by Titus and Luke.

—L.C.

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#### 100 YEARS AGO

The following letter was written by this sister just five days before she passed away from a heavy cold and complications. It was in January of 1885. Her letter appeared in the April, 1885 issue of The Vindicator.

#### A LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL

Dear Brother, I feel constrained by love to write a few words, if in my great weakness I can write anything worthy of notice. I feel as though we were not doing all we could do in our religious work, and I for one, feel my great weakness and shortcomings. I did not get to meeting much this winter, that has caused a dying away. Oh, I don't see how some brethren and sisters can stay away from meeting so much, for it is our life. We so soon become weak and sickly and go to sleep, and it is pretty hard to get us awakened up again. I do love to go to meeting and hear the gospel preached, and then it is so encouraging to meet with the dear brethren and sisters and hear them talk of heaven and heavenly things. That is one thing I think we come short in, we are so apt to talk of worldly things instead of the heavenly. Oh! could we only be more faithful! We are so prone to wander away from our God. But thanks be to him for his merciful kindness toward us, we can approach him in humble prayer and ask him to forgive us all our sins



and shortcomings, and to grant us grace that we may be more faithful. Now brethren and sisters, pray for me that I may hold out faithful until death. From your unworthy sister.

—Lizzie Newcomer  
Quincy, Pennsylvania

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#### BIRTH

BOWSER - A son, Jeremy Daniel born April 20th to Allan and Rhoda Bowser of Collins, Mississippi.

#### BAPTISM

We of the Salida Congregation rejoiced greatly when another precious soul, Peter Cover, was received into our fellowship May 12 by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and Holy Baptism. May he be faithful and helpful in the kingdom of God.

—Joseph L. Cover

## FOR YOUTH

## WHAT IS PRAISE?

We are told many times in the Psalms to praise. "Praise God...;" "Let them praise...;" "Enter into his courts with praise;" "I will praise thee with my whole heart;" "Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises;" and so on. Just what is praise?

Praise begins in the inner realization of our hearts that God is a GREAT God, the Supreme Deity, fearful, wonderful, and delightful. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. It is when we see He has power, all power, power to do anything He wishes. When we feel God's immense mercy and love and see it working, then praise begins.

We see how unfathomable God's being and character are, and we are filled with an irrepressible, inexpressible joy. We feel like a balloon when it is being blown up. It gets fuller and fuller until it is about to burst. That is the feeling of praise.

The actual praising comes when we try to express what we're feeling, seeing, and knowing. We might meet God in prayer to thank Him for what He is and does and thank Him for showing Himself to us. We might rouse our voices to sing, to singing hymns of thanksgiving, and hymns of honor and love to Him. Praising could include sharing with others what God is and what He means to us. We definitely must show our realization of what God is by our actions.

Since we are told so often in God's Word to praise, it surely is an important and a vital part of our lives. It is a feeling and expression every godly person must experience because praise comes from knowing God.

—Jolene Huffman  
Dayton, Ohio

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We'll crowd Thy gates with thankful songs,  
High as the heavens our voices raise;  
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,  
Shall fill Thy courts with sounding praise.

—Isaac Watts

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### "Lessons From Nature" Series

#### STRAWBERRIES

Strawberry shortcake, strawberry ice cream, strawberry shakes, strawberry jam, and strawberry fruit salads; strawberries, fresh and frozen and freeze-dried and stewed; strawberries on cereal, in puddings, with cream or in pies—how many hundreds of ways there must be to use strawberries!

Do you suppose mankind will ever think of a new use for strawberries which God did not already know about when He invented the strawberry long ago? No, I believe that when God made the first strawberry plant He knew all the possibilities that would come from it. In his eye of wisdom He could see people working with tools and straw in their gardens, and with baskets and knives and crude earthenware or shining plastic containers in their kitchens. He could see boys picking off the green stems from the juicy plump berries and popping them whole into their mouths to enjoy their delicious strawberry flavor.

Why do we put straw around strawberries? Actually the clean yellow straw serves several purposes: it blocks out the sunlight to keep the weeds from growing; it lifts the strawberries up off the damp soil which would make them decay, and it makes it much easier for you to find the berries when you pick them.

In the same way, the principles of truth which you are learning as a child will help protect you from the weeds and decay that would harm you. Like clean golden straw, the soft and gentle teachings of Jesus will lift you up above the evil of the world, making it possible for your life to be fruitful for Him.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## MARCH ON, O SOUL, WITH STRENGTH

March on, O soul, with strength  
Like those strong men of old  
Who against enthroned wrong  
Stood confident and bold;  
Who, thrust in prison or cast to flame,  
Still made their glory in the Name.

The sons of fathers we  
By whom our faith is taught  
To fear no ill, to fight  
The holy fight they fought:  
Heroic warriors! never from Christ  
By any lure or guile enticed.

March on, O soul, with strength,  
As strong the battle rolls!  
Against lies and lusts and wrongs,  
Let courage rule our souls:  
In keenest strife, Lord, may we stand,  
Upheld and strengthened by Thy hand.

Not long the conflict: soon  
The holy war shall cease,  
Faith's warfare ended,—won  
The home of endless peace!  
Look up! the victor's crown at length:  
March on, O soul, march on, with strength!

—George T. Coster, 1900

## DISCIPLINE: TRAINING FOR OBEDIENCE

As a boy, I trembled at the discipline of my father. He was not cruel and he was fair, but he meant what he said. A number of times, my brother and I disobeyed or quarrelled, and we felt the switch or the hand of correction. At the time I felt that it was my worst experience; nothing in my sheltered boyhood days could match it for producing terror and repentance—and obedience. As I look back, it was probably the best thing that could have happened to me when I was naughty.

Much is said today about discipline—discipline at home, in school, and in the church. The teachers and wise men of the world have vacillated in their teaching—emphasizing one time extreme leniency and another strictness bordering on cruelty. But discipline in God's sight is the same: it is training for obedience. Discipline is not all punishment, and the need for strictness varies with situations and individuals.

V. Raymond Edman has this to say in his opening paragraph of The Disciplines of Life: "Discipleship means 'discipline!' The disciple is that one who has been taught or trained by the Master, who has come with his ignorance, superstition, and sin, to find learning, truth, and forgiveness from the Saviour. Without discipline we are not disciples, even though we profess His Name and pass for followers of the lowly Nazarene. In an undisciplined age when liberty and license have replaced law and loyalty, there is greater need than ever before that we be disciplined to be His disciples." (Copyright 1948, Scripture Press Foundation)

How does this come about? We know how our parents disciplined us. We also see very vividly how the Lord disciplined His people under the old covenant. They were taught and punished "on the spot" as Hebrews 2:2 says, "...Every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward." Verse 3 continues, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..."

This seems to indicate that we could neglect now when we should be learning—and suffer later for it! God has commanded all men every where to repent. (See Acts 17:30,31) Jesus invites us to come, find rest, take His yoke "and learn of me." But God does not violate our free will. He offers us His life, but if we refuse we must know the alternatives.

In view of this offer, we see that God has a course or way of life for us. His methods of discipline include the instruction of His Word and the power of the Spirit applying the Word in our lives. He uses our parents first, then the school, the church, and our friends and families and even the harsh world around us as instruments of this training. But to a large degree, it is up to us. There is a sense in which God's discipline or training becomes self-discipline because of our freedom to choose to learn the lessons or refuse and be ignorant. Poor discipline shows. The puppy that chews the washing on the line is obviously undisciplined. So is the child who throws a temper tantrum in Safeway. It shows in men and women. If we are careless in our stewardship of time talents, or dollars, we are undisciplined. If we always have to have our own way to be happy, we are undisciplined. If we continually hurt others by our words or actions, we are undisciplined. Only if we show it by our obedience to God can we claim to be disciples of Jesus.

Good discipline also shows. When we cheerfully obey God even when it means self-denial, it is apparent to those around us. Who doesn't like to see an obedient dog skillfully herd a flock of sheep. How good it is to see a roomful of obedient children doing their lessons or playing together cheerfully. So is it also pleasant to see a trim, healthy body, the result of discipline in eating and exercise.

Good discipline is not inborn; we must learn it. In one sense, that is what our time on earth is for. How is this desirable discipline developed? What methods does God, the Master Teacher use in the school of life?

One way we learn is from suffering. Even Jesus



(though my human mind cannot grasp it) learned from suffering. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." Read Hebrews 5:7-9. It teaches us that this is the way Jesus became our Saviour. Saul, the legalist Pharisee, became the useful disciple Paul as he yielded to the discipline of God through suffering. God told Ananias who baptized Saul, "For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my names sake." My dear uncle, helpless and speechless for over fifteen years, but a monument of patience, commented that patience comes in time. Suffering is a good teacher. "...But we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience..." (Romans 5:3)

We learn by law. The laws of the land have prescribed penalties. If you are caught speeding, you must pay the fine. Though we are justified freely by God's grace, we are never "without law to God, but under the law to Christ." (See I Cor. 9:21) Soldiers are under strict rules, and they learn good discipline in the army setting. They stand straight and walk straight, keep neat and clean, and learn to obey orders instantly and without question. Paul writes, "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

We learn by imitation. I Peter 2:21, "...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow his steps." Many have set up Abraham Lincoln as a man to imitate because his life had such an impact on the American freedoms. But our perfect example is Jesus Christ the very author and finisher of our faith. The more we are like Him, the more disciplined our life becomes.

We learn by repetition. It is said that when we learn the definition of a new word, that word is useful to us only after we have used it in conversation three times. So it is with our conduct. We may know a principle of conduct by definition. But not until we have demonstrated it in our experiences can we claim we are obedient to it. Jesus says repeatedly, "If ye love me,

keep my commandments." We learn by doing.

In conclusion, discipline, like anything else worthwhile, does not just happen. If you see a green beautiful, orderly yard, you know someone worked at it. If you see a disciplined, orderly, life, you also can be sure somebody was trying. God teaches us, but we must learn. Let us pray with David the writer of Psalm 143, "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God... Quicken me, O Lord for thy name's sake...for I am thy servant" —L.C.

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### PRAISE

After Jesus had been tempted of the devil forty days, He returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and He came to Nazareth, and as His custom was, He went unto the synagogue on the sabbath day. And there was delivered unto Him the book (or scroll) of the prophet Isaiah. "And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book and gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." (Luke 4:14-21)

Then in Isaiah 61:2, where Jesus had been reading, it continues, "...And the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified."

Dear fellow Christian, is there not a cause to have

joy and praise our Saviour and Creator? To think, we were lost in sin, but Jesus found us and saved us and now comes in and dwells with us and gives us peace. He has invited us to cast all our cares upon Him. He says over and over to us, "Ask! Ask that your joy may be full! Prove me (or test me) and see if I will not pour you out a blessing."

The Christian life is sweet if lived in harmony with God's will. But a life of discord, selfwill, fear, envy, doubts, and defeats will blind, cripple, and destroy us. Happiness and contentment is found when there is union with our Saviour, a union that gets richer and fuller, until we long to live in the glorified state, eternally with our Lord. But humility must be learned, which teaches us that we are not sufficient of ourselves. If we are to be successful in the spiritual life, we must depend upon Him and follow His example who humbled Himself by living a life of utter obedience to His Father. (Phil. 2:5-8)

But what about trials, disappointments, griefs, when it seems that everything is falling apart, and we cannot see our way? Here again Jesus is our example. "Though He were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered." "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, The Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isa. 40:28-31)

In all of Job's trials and losses he said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return ~~thither~~. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord, In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly," (Job 1:21-22)

Listen to the words of David: "I waited patiently



for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." (Psalm 40:1-3)

Here are the words of Habakkuk which show faith and praise: "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places." (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Listen to the song of Paul and Silas in the inner prison, their backs beaten and bleeding, their feet fast in stocks: "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." (Acts 16:22-25)

Hear the word of Paul: "...I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation." (II Cor. 7:4) "...We glory in tribulations also..." (Rom. 5:3) Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

Peter says: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings..." (I Pet. 4:12-13)

And James says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (many) temptations." (James 1:2)

Now comes the question! How could all these examples of being joyful, of rejoicing, of praising the Lord in adverse conditions be? I believe the answer to this lies in their faith and love for their Lord. They had sold out to Him; He came first in their lives. They had counted not their own life dear unto them.

They had learned in whatsoever state they were, to be content. They were willing and glad to suffer for Him, knowing that He had suffered much for them. They felt His power and peace.

What an example for us in this lukewarm age! "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:8) Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me..." (Ps. 50:23) "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Ps. 34:11) Praise ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." (Ps. 147:1) O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth towards the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." (Psalm 98:1-4)

In Christian Love,  
Kenneth Garber Long Barn, California

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## MEDITATIONS

### SOUND

God wants to hear praise and thanksgiving from His Creation. The birds and animals are unchanged. But man has degenerated badly. The angels went to Sodom to see if it was altogether like the sound that came from there. The mob that gathered at Lot's house justified their destruction the next day. Nineveh repented and was spared. What kind of a sound do you believe is going up from the earth today?

—Ernest Wagner  
Modesto, California

## ROCK N' ROLL

## The History of the Music

Man is basically a musical being. Not only is he surrounded by the music and rhythms of nature, but even his biological functions are based on certain syncopations, timings rhythms, and cycles.

Music undoubtedly originated in heaven as the creation of God before the foundation of the world. We read in Job 38:4-7, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth...when the morning stars sang together?" But it was obviously carried by the devil into hell when he fell. Much music is closer to heaven or hell than it is to anything in this world, although a large part of it has so much to do with the things of the here and now that there simply is no description for it other than "worldly."

People are expressing themselves by the type of music they find themselves drawn to. Music in turn has an uncanny ability to affect one's feelings, moods, emotions, thoughts, philosophy, morality, and spirituality.

When rock music first appeared in the 1950's, it was a sort of country and western music with a blues influence. The blues artists trace their roots directly back to Satan-worshiping tribes in Africa. The further rock music has "progressed," the stronger the blues overtones have become.

So much is this true, that when a missionary's son in Africa was listening to this type of music, the natives to whom the missionary was ministering came to him and asked, "Why is your son calling up the evil spirits?" They could easily recognize the roots and spirit of the music they had heard. It has been said that you can trace the downfall of any society by the degeneration of its music. This would be true of churches also.

## The Physical Effects of Rock Music

Music, like man, is made up of three fundamental



parts: melody, which is the most creative part; harmony, which is the arrangement of chords in support of the melody; and rhythm, which is the foundation of all. Music affects us in three ways. The melody affects our spirit, the harmony our psychological drives, and the rhythm our physical being.

If the melody rises too high or fast, it will create tension, unfulfillment and/or frustration. If it falls too sharply or fast, it will tend to develop depression and despair. Rock music fluctuates from one of these extremes to the other, while true Christian music stays in the middle of the road between them.

The harmony relates to our soul and affects our psychological drives. If there is an overplay on dissonance, it produces rebellion and confusion in the hearers. On the other hand, too much consonance results in showmanship and gushy sentimentality. Again, while rock music generally capitalizes on dissonance, the part of it that doesn't overemphasizes consonance. The traditional music of the church, on the other hand, has always avoided these two extremes.

Rhythm, which affects our physical drives, is like the pulse of the body: if there is none, the music is dead; if it throbs, the music is sick; and if it is even and consistent but concealed, the music is healthy. The rhythm of rock usually has a throbbing beat. Too much repetition leans toward sensuality, and too much variation leads toward distraction. Again, rock n' roll fluctuates from one extreme to the other, while true Christian music stays in the middle of the road.

Another element of rock music is great volume. Volume is measured in decibels. Anything over 70 decibels is considered harmful to the body. Rock music is, by definition, "music that is played consistently between 100 and 116 decibels."

Your ear is equipped with 20,000 sensory hairs. These eventually break off by moving back and forth. They never replace themselves. Since these hairs aid in the hearing process, by the time a person has reached 70, under normal circumstances enough of these hairs

are missing to render him somewhat hard of hearing. Via rock music, teens today have lost as many of these sensory hairs at 16 as their grandparents have lost by age 65.

### The Message of the Music

Rebellion seems to be the most consistently underlying message of rock music. This is what gives rise to continual reference by rock performers and their fans to perverted sex styles and drug abuse, often in language not understood by parents.

In II Peter 2:3 we read, "and through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you." This is exactly what the rock stars are doing to young people.

### The Philosophy of the Music

The writer of Proverbs said long ago that as a man thinks in his heart, so he is.

What does this have to do with music? Listen to the hymns of the church. What do you hear? Harmony, coherence, rhythm, and unity. The hymn writer is saying in effect that there is design, purpose, and meaning behind creation. There is a Creator. Life has direction. Those who listen to hard rock hear just the opposite: confusion, discord, and offbeat. The underlying message is that there is no God: we are products of chance; life has no meaning; there are no absolutes; all morality depends on the circumstances surrounding the situation; and nothing is right or wrong in itself. This is the underlying philosophy of rock music, including so-called Christian rock.

The real message of rock music is anti Christ, no matter what the lyrics may say. Christian rock is a contradiction of terms. One may as well talk about a sober drunk, or an honest thief, as to talk about "Christian" rock.

Since this music is of a more unstructured style, it tends to rob the listener of mental and emotional structure in his life.

The Israelites made a mistake in the calf worship recorded in I Kings 12:25-33. They were deceived into

thinking they were still worshiping God, but in a new way. Observances were still held during the same time of the year but, instead of at Jerusalem, at Dan; instead of in the temple, at a high place; and with

a new, non-Levitical priesthood using the medium of the golden calves. No doubt, worshiping God was the idea behind the calf worship first instituted at the foot of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 32), but it will not do to worship God in our own way. We must stay within the principles of His Word.

"Christian" rock music violates Bible principles in the following ways.

1. It confuses the sacred with the secular. "Christian" rock defies the Biblical command "Be ye separate," and it admits that it draws no line between the secular and the sacred. Promoters of "Christian" rock try to place rock in the morally neutral zone (where, as we saw earlier, it does not belong). As a result, many churches are being filled with many people who are culturally no different from the un-Christian society around them. They have never made a clean break with the world's system, and tragically, they see no need to do so. In II Corinthians 6:17, the Bible says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you."

2. It presents a false perspective of the Christian life. The idea it promotes is that the Christian life requires no real change in the forms of pleasure and entertainment pursued. It identifies with the same lifestyle and musical taste of the rock culture with an "add Jesus to your bag" philosophy.

3. "Christian" rock is basically sensuous in nature and intent. It uses a beat and sound which the secular world associates with promiscuous sex.

4. It is physically and psychologically damaging—as is any other rock music.

In order to avoid the dangers of rock music, we need to keep our hearts in tune with God so that we appreciate the structure and harmonious singing in our



churches. An appreciation for country and western music and those singing groups who are strongly influenced by their techniques has a tendency to lead people into the rock music camp.

By Max Wood    Adapted from Barborton Rescue  
Mission News by The Christian Example  
Selected by Stanley K. Brubaker

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## HISTORICAL

### HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

#### GALATIANS

In this brief study of the history of the Epistles of Paul, we find the date of the writing of the letter to the Galatians hard to determine. Halley says that the traditional date is A.D. 57 but that is after the Jerusalem Council recorded in Acts 15. The issues settled in the Jerusalem Council (the requirements for Gentile Christians) are similar to the issues Paul wrote about to the Galatians, and should have quieted the Jewish legalist stirring up the Christians there. So some think it more likely written about A.D. 49 from Antioch before the Jerusalem Council in A.D. 50.

Galatia was a region or Roman Province—not a city. It included the cities of Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and probably Pisidian Antioch. Paul made many Christian converts in Galatia. At Lystra the people wanted to honor Paul and Barnabas by calling them gods and offering sacrifice to them, which, of course, the apostles did not allow. But when Jews came from Antioch and Iconium they easily persuaded these same people against Paul and they stoned him. It appears from Acts 14:20 that God simply raised him up, and he left the city the next day.

This changeableness or susceptibility to persuasion may even be a key to their problem. Paul writes in Galatians 1:6 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." Read this Epistle to find the Christian's

relationship to the Jewish law. Let us be steadfast in the faith and not "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine." We can learn, if we will, from the mistakes of Christians in the past. —L.C.

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### 100 YEARS AGO

The following, from the April, 1885, Vindicator, is part of the obituary of a three month old child. These few words express the hope of a better world in the hearts of the brethren a century ago.

...Thus attending three funerals in ten days brings the subject of our mortality much into thought. Some people say they are "in the land of the living." Me-thinks they mistake. Why, we are in the land of the dying surely. But if we are or become the true children of God by faith and obedience in Christ Jesus, we shall be brought into the land of the living. The Scriptures say in that better world, that "new heaven and new earth," they die no more. "Let us arise and go hence."

—D. B. Mentzer, Waynesboro. Pennsylvania  
February 19, 1885  
Selected by John Schonwald

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### THE LOVE OF JESUS

Do you know the love of Jesus?  
Do you know He loves you so?  
Do you know that He sends blessings  
To us mortals here below?  
Do you know that Jesus loves you?  
Do you know He knows you well?  
He knows how we love each other  
And can read our minds as well.  
Can you know the love of Jesus?  
Why, of course, you surely can.  
You should read the Bible daily;  
It reveals God's love for man.

—Linda Wagner, Bradford, Ohio

FOR YOUTH  
AN ENCOURAGING WORD

The doctor stepped out of the hospital room after checking on one of his patients and walked toward the desk. "You girls have been giving Mr. Smith excellent care," he said to the nurses who were nearby. Instantly cheerful looks replaced weary countenances, steps were lighter, the day seemed brighter, and efforts were redoubled to do the work well.

Have you ever seen an encouraging "word" have similar effects on a person or group of people? I have, numerous times, and not only where I'm employed, but when spoken by a parent to a child, a friend to a friend, a teacher to a student. Who of us can say that we don't appreciate and even need an occasional word of encouragement? Most of us are aware, at least to some extent, of our failures and inadequacies. Therefore when another person can overlook those faults and affirm one of our strengths, it gives our morale a lift!

Why then, if we're aware of the effect of encouraging words, don't we express them more often? Are we afraid that by pointing out another's accomplishment or victory our own weakness in that area might be magnified? Maybe we are simply too lazy to put our thoughts into words. There is no doubt that our society would be different if each of us were to give a word of encouragement of affirmation every time we were tempted to make an unkind or derogatory remark. I want to be the kind of person who builds up rather than tears down, who offers hope rather than discouragement, and who promotes good-will, not malice or despair.

How often do I pass up an opportunity to encourage? How often do you?

—Jean Martin  
Goshen, Indiana

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another even as also ye do.

I Thessalonians 5:11



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### "Lessons From Nature" Series

#### SLOTHFULNESS

Did you know there is an animal in South America which spends most of its time hanging upside down in trees? The sloth is strange in many ways. It has an odd appearance, with almost no tail or ears, and with a blunt nose. Its grayish hair is long and coarse. Sometimes green algae grows on the sloth, making it look like the stump of a broken off tree branch. And, of course, God gave the sloth special hooklike claws so it can be more comfortable as it hangs upside down for days at a time, moving slowly through the trees as it eats leaves, twigs, and buds. In fact, their claws are so well designed that a sloth may even hang in a tree for a while after it dies.

Sloths have two other interesting characteristics: they sleep in the daytime, and they move very slowly. Because of this, we use the word slothful to describe people who sleep when they should be working, or who move so slowly that they hardly get any job finished. A slothful person finds it hard to begin a job—he would rather relax or do something more enjoyable to him than working. And after he starts, he has a hard time keeping at his work. Any little thing can side-track him. He seemingly works harder at getting out of work than at doing the work, and would rather make excuses than progress.

Anyone who thinks a slothful person can be truly happy should read Proverbs 24:30-34. He will see that the fruit of the slothful man's habits is only poverty and disappointment. Let's flee slothfulness. Let's get out of bed with a purpose, and work with a will!

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## LOOKING UNTO GOD

I look to Thee in every need  
And never look in vain;  
I feel Thy strong and tender love,  
And all is well again:  
The thought of Thee is mightier far  
Than sin and pain and sorrow are.

Discouraged in the work of life,  
Disheartened by its load,  
Shamed by its failures or its fears,  
I sink beside the road;  
But let me only think of Thee,  
And then new heart springs up in me.

Thy calmness bends serene above  
My restlessness to still;  
Around me flows the quickening life,  
To nerve my faltering will;  
Thy presence fills my solitude;  
Thy providence turns all to good.

Embosomed deep in Thy dear love,  
Held in Thy law, I stand;  
Thy hand in all things I behold,  
And all things in Thy hand;  
Thou leadest me by unsought ways,  
And turn'st my mourning into praise.

—Samuel Longfellow

## LIGHTS ACROSS THE WATER

A vivid illustration of Jesus shining through His people is found at Point Reyes, California, just north of San Francisco. This triangle of land juts out into the sea, a rocky hazard to ships sailing off shore seeking the San Francisco bay entrance, "the Golden Gate." Besides this, Point Reyes (Punta de los Reyes, the Point of the Kings) is said to be the windiest point on the west coast and the foggiest light station in the United States, "Point Reyes has destroyed approximately 40 vessels in the 400 years since Europeans first saw it." But on this rocky headland stands a lighthouse, and here is the illustration of Jesus, the light of the world.

The lighthouse was installed in 1870 and served till 1975 when it was replaced by more modern equipment. It was the unique design of this light that enabled it to beam a light every 5 seconds 16 miles out to sea to warn sailors of the danger and to enable them to locate their position. The light itself was produced by burning highly refined lard oil on 4 large round, concentric wicks. This in turn was magnified and focused by over 1000 pieces of glass—lenses and prisms. These were precisely positioned in a cylinder (about 4 feet across by 8 feet high) that rotated slowly around the light and sent beams from 24 panels of lenses in all directions. As this giant, 3 ton cylinder of lenses turned, the beams passed over the water and, from a ship, seemed to flash every 5 seconds. The position of the lenses and prisms was important, for they all must work together to focus the light so it could reach out far enough to be effective.

How like this lighthouse is the Christian church! Jesus is the source of light. But each member is placed in a critical position. Each has a place to fill. If the place is not filled or positioned correctly, the



light is diminished. Perhaps someone in peril will not be reached.

There is danger in the world today. Many have been shipwrecked on the rocks of materialism, doubt, moral corruption, strife, and bitterness. How does the true light shine to illuminate and warn in each of these areas? What is the Christians's part in warning of these dangers?

Materialism. This is a rock that lies just beneath the surface of the water. It appears safe. We are inclined to credit the goodness of God in providing so many wonderful things for us to use in this world. This is true, but just below the surface lie the rocks of materialism in which we become attached to the things of this world. The true light beams across the water: "Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth." (Colossians 3:2) "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth..." (Matthew 6:19) "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33) To transmit this light our attitudes and affections and possessions must be in accordance with our profession as followers of Jesus.

Doubt. Here is a rocky point that is much of the time shrouded in fog. The theories of the origin of the universe and the criticism of God's Word are designed by the adversary to cloud the issues and discredit the truth. Young people, especially, being confronted perhaps for the first time with these clouds can soon become shipwrecked on the rocks of doubt. The true light shines powerfully, piercing this fog and testifying, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) "...Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18:37) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." (Romans 10:9) If we would transmit a beam of light to warn of the danger of doubt, we must ourselves be firm believers in the truth. To argue with the theories of the world is mostly ineffective, but to

stand on the Word of God will work. "The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding unto the simple." (Psalm 119:130)

Moral corruption. This rock protrudes boldly from the sea with a strong current carrying vessels toward it. Moral corruption tempts the carnal weaknesses of man, and to be wrecked upon it we need only drift with the current. We will have the approval of the world and the many who are also caught up in the same current. The true beam of the light of the Word of God proclaims that God does not change His mind. What was wrong and corrupt 100 years ago is still wrong today. In this context Proverbs 7:2 reads, "Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye." (6:27): "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies," (Matthew 15:19) To give a light and a warning regarding this danger we must be pure and holy, cleansed in Jesus blood, and not compromise with sin. Young people, stem the tide of temptation, not only to avoid shipwreck but to please God and have His peace and blessing.

Strife. How many whole churches have been wrecked on this ugly rock! How much loss in time, in peace, and and in the souls of men! Send the light of the love of the Lord Jesus Christ to steer the vessels clear of these rocks. "...See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." (I Peter 1:22) "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psalm 119:165) "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3) Perhaps the best warning we can give about this danger is to be peaceable and kind ourselves.

Bitterness. This is an ugly rock that harms us when we react to people, circumstances, or God's correction. Perhaps we think we have it harder than others. Perhaps we resent criticism or the chastening of God, and the rocks of bitterness appear about to wreck us. The



warning of the light of God's Word shines brightly: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31) "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Hebrews 12:15)

The Point Reyes light has saved many vessels since 1870. But it was a lonely, difficult post for the lightkeepers. None of the workers wanted to be sent there. There was glass to polish, the works to wind every 2 hours; coal to shovel (140 pounds per hour of operation) to keep the steam-operated fog horn sounding, and there was the ceaseless wind and fog.

In your Christian life perhaps you can think of some comparisons here, too. Does your place sometimes seem difficult—beyond your power of endurance? We have a job to do, a warning to give out, a place to fill—and a mighty God to support us, a loving Saviour to supply the grace, and the Holy Spirit to give us strength. The lonely places and hard tasks are sometimes the most important ones. One of our hymns says:

Faithful to thy post, oh, brother,  
Thy profession, hold it fast;  
Thou must work and not another,  
Stand thou firm unto the last.

May we as Christians be beacons sounding the warnings, showing the light of Jesus, so that souls sailing life's sea may also find that "Golden Gate" of God's glorious rest.

Christian Brethren, do we see  
Dangers threatening you and me;  
Rocks and fog of sin and wrong,  
Robbing us of joy and song?  
Do we walk the Christian way,  
Lights for Jesus every day?  
Only thus can Brethren show  
Rocks and reefs that hide below.  
Give the Word! Send the Light! —L.C.



## IN GOD WE TRUST

These words were not used on our coins until quite some time after this nation was founded. But I'm sure the founders were God-fearing men, and trusted in the higher Power.

How about us as members of the body of Christ? Do we really trust in the Lord in our everyday walk in life? Yes, I believe we do. But maybe we could trust a little more, especially in these last and dark days. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart..." Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him..." (Job 13:15)

In President Reagan's book In God I Trust, he says his mother took her two sons to church every Sunday. He didn't think so much about it at the time, but later in life he was sure that had an impact on his life. He said whatever days were left for him would be for the Lord. He also said that he felt called of the Lord to be the leader of this nation.

We can be thankful that we have leaders that are God-fearing men.

When we lose our loved ones in death we really do notice it. But it should cause us to have more faith and trust in the Lord, not less. Can we say, "Here Lord take me and make me what Thou wouldst have me be, and I'll completely trust in Thee"?

How about these people that came over on the Mayflower and the Brethren that came later? I'm sure they trusted in the Lord that they would arrive safely. They had much to be thankful for when they arrived in a new land where they could worship the Lord according to the New Testament.

So it is with us today. We should completely trust in Him whatever comes and say, "Lord, Thy will be done." "In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness." (Psalm 31:1)

When we work for someone, we want to do it like the boss wants it. And if we do, he feels he can trust us to do it right.

We are disciples or ambassadors for Christ, and I'm

sure He trusts us to do His bidding. He says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." And I'm sure that He trusts that we will. So therefore we should trust Him at all times and really believe in Him, that He doeth all things well. Amen.

If I trust in the Lord  
And His bidding do  
I'm sure He will bless me  
So I'll always be true  
To Him and His Word  
In this life to the end,  
And I'll say, "Thy will be done,  
O Lord, Saviour, and Friend."

In Christian Love,  
John C. Wray  
Modesto, California

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A NOTE OF THANKS, A PRAYERFUL PLEA AND URGENT REQUEST  
FOR LABORERS IN THE WORK OF OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN  
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

It is with praise and thanksgiving to our loving Father in heaven that we write this to each dear brother and sister in the Lord Jesus.

First a thank you to each one who has supported and helped in any way with the work of the Lord here in Brazil. A special thanks for the Spiritual help (prayers, advice, encouragement, visits here to assist, etc.). We again extend an invitation for each one to come visit and assist us. Come stay for a week, a year or more. No length of time is too long. Even come in and surprise us; we don't need to know ahead as the accomadations are plentiful and good. Thanks again to our Father for it all.

When we first moved here to Brazil, we, of course, had our family devotions and worship as usual and also attended the public worship services frequently of two other denominations. A short time later we held public worship services jointly with two families of

the one denomination. Approximately eight months later these two families moved away, and we were again attending the public worship services of the other denomination occassionally. After a short period of time we received a letter from the brethren in the eastern United States encouraging us to conduct our own public worship service. We then started having public worship services in our houses each Lord's day. From that time to now the Father has blessed beyond our expectations and dreams, and would have without a doubt blest much more had we been more diligent and faithful.

As time went on the work began to center in the town of Rio Verde (Green River). The worship service was held at different places and different times. Sometimes services were conducted in a house about like yours and ours, only smaller; other times in a hauncho (stick house with a dirt floor); other times worshipping outside of the stick house holding candles around a bon fire under the stars and moon, because there were too many friends and neighbors for all of us to get into the little hauncho. Another time on a Lord's day afternoon we met along a country road outside of town under two or three large Mango trees for public worship services as we had no house offered. Brethren, it has been a blessed experience only outshined by the new birth the Father has given us. Then there was one public worship service each month conducted at our house on the farm. At this time we are only worshipping publicly in town each Lord's day.

In the month of April, 1984, we acquired a house and lot in Rio Verde for a regular meeting place. On April 29, 1984, in the afternoon we met there for the first worship service. It was a short dedication service to our Father in Heaven. We are now meeting at 7 o'clock each Lord's day evening. During the week there is a sing service at our house or one of the neighbor's one evening.

The second Lord's day of each month there also is a short service at the prison and another at the old folks' home. This is usually mostly singing as neither



place has a chapel. The service at the prison started when a young man who was put in prison and his mother requested that we gather and have a worship service for him and the other prisoners. The guards and prisoners request that we come more often. One of the Military Police at the prison asked if we couldn't come there for worship each Lord's day as it helps the spirits of the prisoners so much. This Policeman when on duty sings with us and occasionally selects a hymn for us to sing together. Some of the prisoners join in with the singing also. They tell us it takes a long time for the next month to come. We are sorry and sad to report to you we have not been able to meet the request of the M.P. and prisoners for a service at the prison each Lord's day, because of the other requests that need to be honored. We plead for assistance! We have much good help and assistance, but most of these people have not yet been born again and are still wanting to learn and receive more light themselves. They are looking to us (you and        and we haven't been able to or haven't kept up with it all.

The fourth Lord's day we visit and sing at the childrens home. After we sing, then the children at the home sing some of their Christian hymns to us. We also visit and sing in homes that have invited us to do so. The other two Lord's days we usually have one or more requests to visit in people's homes that we try to honor.

As we travel to town each Lord's day we usually go in two vehicles ( a station wagon and a van) filled with us and the people from the farm, as these people need a way to the worship service.

The meeting house in town needs to be opened up more by removing two more walls to make more seating capacity for the worship services. It only seats about 40 people comfortably at this time, and there are times when the attendance exceeds this.

There have been Christian baptisms, and there have been other applications for baptism, that have not yet transpired because of things that need to be taken care

of by them before receiving Christian baptism. Others have made known to us they want to receive Christian baptism as soon as they learn more of God's word. Another man is trying to get everything taken care of and in order before he makes application for Christian baptism. (His wife has informed us of this.) Let's all continue to pray for these souls and one another.

In conclusion: There have been more requests for visits and services than we have been able to, or have fulfilled. There has just now been another request or plea for more worship services. I have been feeling for some time the need for worship services on the farm as well as in town on the Lord's day. These people are hungry for and seeking the Gospel, the pure word of God, our Father in heaven. Please, let us assist them more as soon as possible. Our Lord is going to return soon!

We feel the need and prayerfully plead and request at the very least for one brother to come assist us here with the Lord's work. Our preference is and always has been that a ministering brother can come here and go ahead, serving the Lord and the people with our assistance. Not our will but Thine, oh Father, be done.

We simply ask and encourage each brother and sister individually to take this matter to our Father in heaven in prayer, and that His will be done. If the Father has called you, you know it. If the Father calls you, you will know it. When the Father calls we don't think He called, we know He called. We then encourage you if the Father has called you to this little service of His, to respond positively and it will be easy to do as you continue to walk with the Lord. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Oh the love, peace, and joy that we all know in His service—our great Lord and Shepherd.

There is no brother too old or too young, too rich or too poor to respond positively if He calls you to this service. There are brethren, there and here that are able, waiting, and wanting to assist you as soon as your decision becomes known to them.

As Jesus told His disciples almost 2000 years ago,

"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Father, not our will but Thine be done is our prayer through Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen.

An unworthy brother and sister in Christ,  
Wade and Violet Flora  
Rio Verde, Goias, Brazil

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#### OBITUARY

DANIEL PERRY GRAYBILL, age 87 years, 1 month, 5 days, passed away at 11:45 a.m, Tuesday, April 30, 1985, at the home of Lester, his son, C.R. 13, 3/4 mile south of C.R. 40 where he resided for the past 5 months.

He had not been ill and had suffered an apparent heart attack in the garden with his hoe still in hand. He was born near Rossville, Indiana, Clinton County, on March 26, 1898, the son of Riley L. and Elizabeth Cripe Graybill.

He came to Elkhart county in 1918. On January 28, 1922, he was married to Susan B. Miller, and she preceded him in death May 5, 1970. Survivors are one daughter, Mrs. Sylvia Lavy of Wakarusa; two sons, James W. and Lester J. of Goshen; 18 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers: Irvin, John, and Jacob Graybill; two sisters: Mrs. Rosa Ganger and Miss Ada Graybill; one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

A member of the Old Brethren German Baptist Church, he served as a minister for 55 years. On the Sunday before his passing he preached his last sermon at the home of Charlie and Violet Weinmer.

A funeral service was conducted at 10:00 a.m. on Friday May 3, 1985, at the Wisler Mennonite Church. Burial was at the Wisler Yellow Creek Cemetery.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

The Family



## HISTORICAL

## HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

## THE PRISON EPISTLES

Four epistles of Paul were written about 62 A.D. from a Roman prison: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Each of these has its particular message and place in the Word of God. They show the zeal, the joy, the steadfastness and love of this faithful apostle of Jesus even when he was in bonds.

Ephesians is thought by some to have been a kind of general letter to the churches of Asia. Some of the most ancient manuscripts omit the words "at Ephesus" in the first verse. Possibly Paul intended for each church where it was read to insert its name here. Also, much of the personal character as special greetings to individuals which appear in other epistles is absent in this letter. The epistle has much in it for all of us and could apply to any church. Its beautiful language of honor to our Saviour and encouragement to the church is simply unsurpassed in any literature.

The letters to Ephesus, Colosse, and Philemon were all carried from Rome by Tychicus and Onesimus. They were written by scribes at the dictation of Paul. Tychicus wrote Ephesians and Colossians. Epaphroditus wrote Philippians, and Onesimus wrote Philemon and part of Colossians.

The church at Colosse was not founded by Paul, but by Epaphras. But Paul was concerned for these Christians even though he possibly did not know most of them. He wrote, evidently, to correct some errors there: false philosophies, worshipping angels, and perhaps some asceticism. (chapter 2) Archippus was a minister there and is mentioned in Colossians and Philemon.

Philippi was the first city of Europe that Paul preached in. You will remember, he was called there by a vivid vision of a man of Macedonia saying to him, "Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Paul responded to this call and established in Philippi a church which

was perhaps as faithful and pure as any of the New Testament Gentile churches. Luke was possibly from Philippi and was this church's pastor for the first six years.

The letter to the Philippians is a letter of victory and rejoicing. The gift they sent to Paul (4:18) evidently was gratefully received by Paul in prison.

The epistle to Philemon has a special character as it was written to an individual, a special Christian brother to Paul and resident of Colosse. Paul exhorts Philemon to receive a servant, Onesimus, who had run away and was returning with the letter having been in the meantime converted by Paul's ministry.

What an encouragement these epistles should be to us! Paul rejoices even in prison. He is obsessed with the preaching of the Gospel and the salvation of souls and even in prison he is spending his best resources that the work might go on. Philippians 1:12 tells of his satisfaction that even his troubles were used of God: "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel."

—L.C.

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#### 100 YEARS AGO

(This selection is a letter written in December, 1884, but printed in the January, 1885, Vindicator. In it the writer invites new settlers to the Shoal Creek Church in Missouri, which had only been organized a few years earlier.)

Dear Brethren and Sisters of like precious faith, greeting: We the brethren and sisters of the Shoal Creek Church, Newton County, Mo., are still laboring for the advancement of the cause of Christ as well as we can. We have meeting every Sunday; we now have three preachers: Jacob Flory as Elder, Michael Montgomery on the second degree, and Henry Brubaker, first degree; also we have three deacons. Our Church is in peace and union as far as we know. We had our com-

munion on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of October, with the help of the Jasper and Johnson county brethren, and we had an interesting meeting. I would also say to the brethren and sisters who contemplate changing their location, come and see us and look at our country before moving elsewhere. We have good land, good water, good health, and a good, mild climate. We haven't commenced feeding our cattle yet; we have plenty of prairie and plenty of timber land; come and see for yourselves.

In Christian Love,  
W. Turner, Newtonia, Mo.  
Selected by John Schonwald

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#### MEDITATION: BE STRONG

Eph. 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." We have a very good example in David's life in the Old Testament. His brothers felt better than him and left him the humble job of herding the sheep, which he did very faithfully. He no doubt used His sling effectively to drive back the wild animals. When the lion carried off the lamb in his mouth, he followed right after him. The lion probably hesitated to release the lamb, giving David opportunity to deliver a crushing blow. The bear probably met a similar fate. No doubt these adventures gave him confidence that the Lord would give him strength if he moved firmly to do what was right.

When he sent to meet Goliath, the giant probably looked out over his shield to taunt and ridicule, giving David opportunity to use his trusty sling. This teaches us that if we make a strong, whole-hearted effort to serve the Lord, He will give the opportunities.

Ernest Wagner  
Modesto, California

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#### BIRTH

CABLE - A son, Titus Lee, born July 5 to Faythe and Ron Cable of Goshen, Indiana.



## THE HARDWORKING HAYMAKER

He has never heard the old saying, "Make hay while the sun shines." but that's exactly what the pika does.

The 7" long pika (sometimes called conie or cony) lives in the high mountains of Europe, Asia and western North America. The American pika lives in the Rocky Mountains, just above the timberline. He prefers dwelling with a group of his relatives, often at the foot of a cliff.

A harmless creature, the pika has a one-inch tail, and grayish fur colored lighter underneath. Being a relative of hares and rabbits, he has a double set of upper incisor teeth—the mowers for his hayfield.

For the pika is a little hay farmer. Up early at dawn, he scurries busily about on his short legs. His feet, which have hair on their soles, quickly take him to the nearest grass patches. He clips all the grass he can carry crosswise in his mouth, and scuttles back to his home. On a stone slab outside his door he spreads his hay for the sun to dry. Trip after trip he makes to his hayfields, day after day. If rain threatens he bleats a warning to his neighbor pikas, and they hurriedly put their crops away.

When summer is over, he may have 50 pounds of hay stored for the snowy winter—crisp, green, sweet-smelling hay, along with some dried vegetables.

Surely this busy little farmer deserves to be warm and well-nourished all through the cold winter. As he enjoys his harvest, does he think back to the busy days of summer? Probably not. But if he could, it would surely make his hay taste even sweeter.

We would surely do well to diligently imitate this "exceeding wise" little fellow—the busy haymaker.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

"There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise...the conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rock."

Proverbs 30:24,26

## GOD WANTS YOUTH!

Samuel was young when God called him,

And gave him his first job to do;

Daniel's first trial in obedience

Came when he was young, too.

Abednego, Shadrach, and Meshach

Were still in the flower of youth

When God called upon them to witness,

And stand even fire for His truth.

The slave girl who helped to cure Naaman

And David, the young shepherd boy,

Let not youth hinder their duty

But labored in "fulness of joy."

The Lord called upon the young rich man

To follow him over the earth;

John, the forerunner of Jesus,

Was "filled with the Spirit" from birth.

So we who would labor for Jesus,

Would "join in the battle for truth,"

Should first realize that He wants us

While we're bubbling with freshness of youth.

While our bodies are young, strong, and vibrant,

And our minds are yet pure, clear, and bright;

While our hearts are yet open and ready

To receive of His "marvelous light."

That's when the Lord wants to use us;

E'er our hearts, minds and senses grow dim.

So come forth and offer with gladness

Your life, clean and youthful to Him.

Mary Harris, Age 17

Selected by Kenneth Garber

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19201 Cherokee Rd.

Tuolumne, Calif. 95379

# THE PILGRIM

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NO. 8

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

## CHRISTIAN, WORK FOR JESUS

Christian, work for Jesus,  
Who on earth for thee  
Labored, wearied, suffered  
Died upon the tree.

Work with lips so fervid  
That thy words may prove  
Thou hast brought a message  
From the God of love.

Work with heart that burneth,  
Humbly at His feet,  
Priceless gems to offer,  
For His crown made meet.

Work with prayer unceasing,  
Borne on faith's strong wing,  
Earnestly beseeching  
Trophies for the King.

Work while strength endureth,  
Until death draw near;  
Then thy Lord's sweet welcome  
Thou in heaven shalt hear.

—M. Haslock



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## BACK TO SCHOOL

Out come the lunch boxes, the pencil cases, the notebooks, the new overalls, the school dresses—for now is the time for the children and young folks to return to their studies for another school year. Many will greet school as a relief from the boredom of summer. Some will count it an interruption of their fun and good times. But those youngsters who have the best understanding of the purpose of school will welcome the return to the books as a golden opportunity to learn. For never again will it be as convenient and easy to grasp and memorize, to study and apply the efforts to learning.

But this article is not primarily to young people, because we adults also need to go "back to school." There is never a time when we can afford to stop learning. But sometimes we forget this, and then we need to return to learning. We should begin studying again when we realize that there are many Scripture truths to learn that we either have forgotten or never knew. We need to go back to school when we sense that our Spiritual life is getting cold or lukewarm, because God can teach us these lessons if we are willing. And then when we find that our relationship to our brethren, our children, or even our companions is not what we would like it to be, it is another sign that we need to go back to the place of instruction and let God teach us how to act, when to speak, and what is our duty.

For children, learning falls into several categories. They must learn many facts or information. They must also develop skill in using learning tools. They must learn how to interact and communicate with other people. And, most important, they must learn about their Creator and Redeemer.

We adults also have categories to our learning. We too have many facts to learn and remember—traffic laws, the rules of our government, and many facts and

laws in God's Word. Much of this can be "head knowledge." We can memorize facts and Scriptures without really getting our hearts involved. Friends told us recently that Nikita Krushchev could recite much of the New Testament as he had learned it as a child. But his heart was not in it, for he was an outspoken adversary to Christianity.

The best and most important categories of learning for us adults have to do with our hearts, our attitudes, our wills. Centuries ago God had Jeremiah tell his people this statement of His will:

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23, 24

Here is a category of learning that is of top priority in God's sight. This will need to involve our hearts, as He says he will write His laws there.

Mary of Bethany seemed to understand her greatest need. She "sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word." And Jesus said this one thing was needful. It is needful for us, too. Jesus has the words of eternal life, and He invites us to come and learn of Him.

Solomon was a man of wisdom and knowledge. God gave him this and yet he recommended continued learning. Proverbs 1:5 says, "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning..." V.7: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach us: ("...He shall teach you all things...") No doubt He is doing this constantly if we are willing learners. In a hardware store, the clerks can give out a lot of information that they have learned about their products.



But woe to the clerk that will not in turn learn from his customers. His is a head knowledge from can labels, factory letters, etc. Theirs is a practical knowledge of experience in using the products. Similarly in our spiritual life the Holy Spirit will help us learn from one another if we are willing.

To learn we need to have a certain degree of humility whether the learning comes by experience or from our friends or direct from God. It is not always easy to say or even to think, "I don't know; I would like to learn." But how great the benefits if we are willing to learn daily the lessons God has for us.

And so we adults, too, have the privilege to go back to school. We can learn all our lives if we will. We began by learning to crawl, to eat, to talk, to stay away from a hot stove—and we continue to learn to communicate, to walk the Christian path, to avoid spiritual dangers, to help one another, to know God better. Learn the Scriptures; learn them by heart; practice using this "sword of the Spirit." Learn to teach your children God's ways. Study history for so much of it is like our own time. Study the marvellous world around us that testifies so consistently of our all-wise Creator. "Study to show thyself approved unto God..." "...Study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you." (I Thessalonians 4:11)

In the school of life with the Holy Spirit as our teacher there is no diploma or graduation. But someday we will see our Saviour face to face and know as we are known. Someday we may hear the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant..." These rewards will not come to him who has despised learning and been too proud to be teachable.

Let us go back to school as our children return this year. Let us willingly say with David in Psalm 143:10, "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

—L.C.



Dear Brother Leslie,

I came across this little article, and I believe it would be worth printing. I know it is a lesson I could do better in. It is a letter someone wrote to a Mr. Cook.

WHAT'S THE ANSWER?

Dear Mr. Cook:

I recently suffered a great wrong and became quite bitter about it. My pastor and my friends say I must forgive and forget—but I can't. —Bitter

Dear Bitter:

Let's get one thing straight right away: it's not "forgive and forget." Only Almighty God has the ability to forget our sins—and He does, when He forgives them! But you retain all the impressions of life in some way or other. Not "forgive and forget," but "forgive and accept."

The punishment you are meting out to this individual is that you have rejected him—he is no longer acceptable to you because of the wrong you have suffered. But, while you are punishing the wrongdoer, you are also—without realizing it—punishing yourself.

The Christian part of you wants to forgive, knowing it should accept the other person as one for whom Christ died. But your old, selfish nature wants revenge. It wants to feel compensated for its loss and pain. It wants the other person to suffer for what he did. Let's look at what God says about this very common problem in human relationships.

Forgiveness of the other person is not a matter of choice—it is mandatory. "If ye forgive not...neither will your Father in heaven..."

Forgiveness is to be extended to others in the light of the fact that God has forgiven us so much, because of Christ. "Forgiving one another, as God for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."

Forgiveness is not to be limited to isolated occasions—"This once, but don't let it happen again!" Our Lord replied to the question, "How often?" with the

words, "Until seventy times seven."

Nothing is really settled until you have accepted the wrong as a sin for which Christ died. You yourself are guilty of sins for which Christ died. Why not accept the other person as he is, for Jesus sake, and seek to be a blessing to him?

There is one more thing—namely, a miracle: learn to love the one who has wronged you. Only when your heart is divinely filled with love will you be able to receive again the one to whom you had barred your heart. The Holy Spirit can thus make relationships happy and liveable again.

—Humbly selected by Everett Oyler  
Realizing I greatly need this "Miracle."

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#### NEWS FROM BRAZIL

We often remark our world was pretty small while we lived in the U.S. and didn't know how the other parts of the world lived. We have learned a lot and still think our world is pretty small, but thanks be to God that all men are created equal and we are all the same in His sight, no one above another.

We would like you to go along with us in your mind to a wedding we attended a few weeks ago. Brother Francisco and his brother Olimpio came out to our home by bus, then walked several miles to our home for Olimpio to invite us to his wedding a month later on Saturday at 7:00 p.m. He said, it was to take place at Sanclerlandia, a town 180 miles north of us where the bride lived. He told Wade he wanted him to have a part in the wedding service, too. We have a van so offered to take some of his family that wanted to go.

The morning of the wedding we met his Mother, sister, and two nephews at the highway at 6:45 a.m. as they had come on the bus that far. We all started on our journey up to Sanclerlandia. We had never been to that area before so were looking forward to seeing new country. We took a map along to help us on our journey. We traveled on asphalt road for 12 miles and the rest of the

roadswere all dirt roads but good to travel on. On some of the bridges we had to be careful how we crossed as the boards were spaced apart or missing, so we had to be careful not to get a tire caught, but we didn't have any trouble.

A truck was sitting along the road and the driver motioned for us to stop. He said he was out of fuel and needed to go get some up ahead so we told him to get in. He and his wife got in and we just sat closer together; as the saying goes, "Always room for one more."

There are no road signs, but sometimes there are signs that tell the name of the next town, so that is the only way to know if you are on the right road. At each small town we had to stop and ask where the road was to the next town where we wanted to go. People are very friendly and helpful, so that's no problem. In one town a man insisted we wait in front of the hotel and he would go get his family and be by to show us the way to the next town as he was going there. We waited a little while but then decided we'd better be on our way and not waste much time. We asked someone at the hotel how to get out on the right road and we started off. This man and his family passed us on the road outside of town.

We arrived in Sanclerlandia at 2 p.m. and happened to think that no one of us knew where we were to go after we got there as we didn't know the name of the church or the bride. Just at that time Olimpio came walking across the street as we came into the town. He thought we would be arriving about that time. He took us to Hervino and family's home. Hervino is a bishop in the church and works with people and gives council etc. They were a wonderful family and wanted us to feel right at home. They served refreshments; then we visited and rested for a while.

The electricity for the town was shut off that day and was supposed to be turned on at 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. After 5:30 they suggested we go to the river to bathe as was getting so late. There were several of us to bathe and change clothes, and the electricity hadn't



been turned on yet, and, of course, no water without electricity. Brazilians never change clothes without bathing first. We studied the situation at the river a little while, then decided to go to the farm house close by to see if the women folks could bathe there. The people were really nice and hospitable and welcomed us in and tried to give us the very best and wanted to heat water for our baths. We insisted they shouldn't, but they would have it no other way. The men folks went to the river. We were hurrying and dressing by candlelight so weren't sure of how we looked.

It was about wedding time, but we weren't afraid of missing the wedding as the groom was with us. We stopped by the bride's parent's home for the groom to get his suit. People here can rent the groom's and bride's clothes. We went back to Hervino's home for the groom to get ready, and we could put the finishing touches on ourselves with lights. The wedding started at 7:45 p.m. instead of 7:00.

The bridal pair have witnesses, and the people sign for the couple. They can have as many witnesses as they want, and these witnesses all stand in the front of the church close to the bridal pair. The minister read a lot of the Scriptures of the duties of the husband and wife and gave them much good advice. They then took their vows as husband and wife, and the wedding record was read about them, their parents etc. The names of the witnesses were read; then the bridal pair and the witnesses all signed in the order in which they were read. We were dismissed, and the congratulations were given to the bridal pair outside the church. The ones that were invited to the reception went to the bride's parent's home and had supper which consisted of rice, beans, beef, chicken, meat balls, spaghetti, manioc, kool-aid, coffee, and water. The gift's are taken to the bride's parent's home before the wedding or at the reception, and someone opens them as they are presented and displayed on the bed.

We returned to Hervino's home for the night. They

gave us their beds and their rooms and did a lot of extra work to have beds and comfort for everyone. We never cease to be amazed at how the people here really show their hospitality and want you to feel at home with them. They give you their best.

The next morning we were served coffee, milk, bread and butter, then got ready to make our departure. They insisted we stay longer and attend their morning church service which we would have loved to do, but we felt the need to start back home as we had church in town at 7:00 that evening. Hervino showed us another way home, so we had mostly asphalt roads except for 15 miles of dirt roads, and we got to see another new area. Again we had to ask at each town how to get on the right road to the next town.

We were really thankful we had gone and have many precious memories of the wonderful time we enjoyed. As we said when we left Hervino's, we had friends now in Sanclerlandia and thanked God for them and hoped they could sometime in the near future visit us in our home.

Wade and Violet Flora  
Rio Verde, Goias, Brazil

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#### MEDITATION: LOVE

Luke 10:27: The lawyer answered Jesus, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

While it is true we need a close, loving tie to those of like faith and practice, we cannot set a boundary on love. As Jesus taught in the parable of the good Samaritan: the priest and the Levite passed by the man because he wasn't in their circle of friends! We need to do good wherever there is opportunity without respect of persons. When old age and infirmity come, we are not able to delve deeply into things that require deep study and concentration, but all can feel love and compassion which is God in us. "God is love. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." —Ernest Wagner, Modesto, California

## HISTORICAL

## HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

## I &amp; II THESSALONIANS

Thessalonica was formerly the metropolis of Macedonia. The apostle Paul, being directed after an extraordinary manner to preach the gospel in Macedonia (Acts 16:9, 10), went from Troas to Samothracia, thence to Neapolis, and then to Philippi, where he had good success in his ministry, but met with hard usage, being cast into prison with Silas, from which being wonderfully delivered, they comforted the brethren there, and departed. Passing through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where the apostle planted a church. But a tumult being raised in the city, Paul and Silas, for their safety, were sent away by night unto Berea, and afterwards Paul was conducted to Athens, leaving Silas and Timotheus behind him. When they came, Timotheus was sent to Thessalonica, to enquire after their welfare and to establish them in the faith (I Thess. 3:2), and, was sent again, together with Silas, to visit the churches in Macedonia. So that Paul, being left at Athens alone (I Thess. 3:1), departed thence to Corinth, where he continued a year and a half, and then he wrote this epistle to the church of Christ at Thessalonica, which, though it is placed after the other epistles of this apostle, is supposed to be first in time of all Paul's epistles.

This Second Epistle was written soon after the former, and seems to have been designed to prevent a mistake concerning the second coming of Christ, as if it were near at hand. The apostle informs them that there were many intermediate counsels yet to be fulfilled before that day of the Lord should come, though, because it is sure, he had spoken of it as near.

Selected from Matthew Henry's Commentary  
pages 674 & 671



## 100 YEARS AGO

## "INFANT BAPTISM"

This article from a century ago was written by the Vindicator editor, Joseph I. Cover.

"The obligation of christian parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in baptism, rests upon Bible authority; and is confirmed by apostolic practice and the writings of the fathers!"—L. Mendenhall, in Free Methodist."

The authors of the following statements, contrary to the above, were Paedobaptists:

"There is nothing in the words of the institution, nor in any other accounts of the administration of this rite, respecting the baptism of infants: there is not a single precept for, nor example of, this practice through the whole New Testament!"—Samuel Baker

"There is no express precept or rule given in the New Testament for baptism of infants!"—Bishop Burnet

"It cannot be proved by the sacred Scripture, that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun by the first Christians after the apostles!"—Martin Luther

"There is no example of baptism recorded in the Scriptures, where any were baptised but such as appeared to have a saving interest in Christ!"—T. Boston

"There is no instance can be produced, from which it may be indisputably inferred that any child was baptised by the apostles."—Limborch

"I conclude that all examples of baptism in Scripture do mention only the administration of it to the professors of saving faith; and the precepts give us no other direction."—Baxter

Touching the above extracts the doctrine of the Old Brethren Church has ever been to obtain first the mind of Jesus; see Paul, in Romans 8: "If we have not the mind of Christ we are none of his, and unless we have the Spirit of Christ we are not the Sons of God," for "he is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," so in all respects. By the word we must have an express command to warrant

infant sprinkling, called baptism, or the record that Christ and His apostles did it, and unto whom, and how, when and where. This shown truthfully will obtain its practice from us, and nothing else.

Selected by John Schonwald

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### MEDITATION

Today I was admonished.  
The pain  
is hard to bear.

I'm angry, Lord,  
and bitter.  
Could this happen  
to me?

Who did this sister  
think she was?  
To see into my soul,  
To show me my weakest part?

Forgive me, Lord;  
I don't want  
to see myself  
as others do...

But—  
You sent her, Lord, didn't You?  
Forgive my hardened heart.

Did she feel like Jonah?  
Was this hard for her, too?

Help me to see my sister's love;  
Her courage and concern.  
Help me to do better.  
Help me, as only You can.

—Anonymous

## BIRTHS

MARTIN - a son, Jesse Joel, born August 13 to Neil and Lois Martin of Nappanee, Indiana.

BRUBAKER - a son, Wesley Christian, born August 19 to Stanley and Janice Brubaker of Goshen, Indiana.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

John Bayer, Jr. 9555 W. Third St.  
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Knowledge and wisdom, far from being one,  
Have oft times no connection. Knowledge dwells  
In heads replete with thoughts of other men;  
Wisdom in minds attentive to their own.  
Knowledge, a rude, unprofitable mass,  
The mere materials, with which Wisdom builds,  
Till smoothed and squared and fitted to its place,  
Does not encumber whom it seems to enrich.  
Knowledge is proud, that he has learned so much;  
Wisdom is humble, that he knows no more.

—William Cowper



## BAPTISMS

We brethren, sisters, and friends of Rio Verde, Brazil, thanked our heavenly Father and rejoiced with the holy angels when another precious soul, Alcidia Pereira Maia, was received into our fellowship July 28 by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and Holy Baptism.

We and our visitors again rejoiced when still another precious soul, Lazara da Silva Machada was received into our fellowship August 4 by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and Holy Baptism.

May these sisters be faithful and helpful in the Kingdom of our Father in heaven.

—Wade Flora

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## COMMUNION MEETINGS

A Lovefeast Meeting is appointed for Sunday, September 29, with the Canadian members near Maple, Ontario. The invitation is given to attend and enjoy fellowship at this meeting.

—Melvin Coning

The Fall Lovefeast Meeting for the Eastern District has been appointed for October 5 & 6 at the meeting house near Bradford, Ohio. A hearty invitation is extended to all the members in the Brotherhood.

—Hollis Flora

We, the members of the Old Brethren Church in California, have agreed to hold our Fall Lovefeast Meeting, the Lord willing, at Salida on November 2 & 3. We sincerely invite and welcome all our dear brethren and sisters and friends to come and be with us at this time of communion and spiritual revival. May God richly bless this coming meeting and all who attend.

—Joseph L. Cover

## FOR YOUTH

## SHOWING OUR FRUITS

It is time for picking blackberries again. What a challenging sight to see large, juicy blackberries hanging lush and sweet on the thorny vines!

It makes me think of our spiritual lives. Good, ripe fruit or habits should be part of our everyday lives. Do we show the fruit of the Spirit? Can people looking on tell that we are Christians by other ways than our plain clothes? Do we act out these fruits of the Spirit to our family members?

Jesus says "Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit." If we are really children of God, and His Spirit dwells in us, we will show these fruits of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." (Matthew 7:20)

It takes diligent effort to keep these fruits in our everyday lives. But it will be worth it because God is glorified when we bear much fruit. (John 15:8) And our reason for being here on earth is to glorify our Creator.

The rewarding part of a session in the briar patches is to see beautiful, blackberries shining in the crate. So it is an encouraging experience to meet a Christian young person that radiates the fruit of the Spirit and shows that Christ lives in his heart.

—Rosanna Cover

Tuolumne, California

"I am the vine and ye are the branches:"

Bear precious fruit for Jesus today;

Branches in Him no fruit ever bearing,

Jesus hath said, "He taketh away."

Yes, by your fruits the world is to know you,

Walking in love as children of day;

Follow your Guide; He passes before you

Leading to realms of glorious day,

—Knowles Shaw

Job, the godly rich man who lived many thousands of years ago, was a wise man. He knew the answers to many hard questions. He knew how to work. He knew how to help other people. He knew how to live a pure and upright life—for he feared and loved God.

But Job forgot once that he was really quite weak and foolish and ignorant compared to God. To help Job gain a more humble wisdom, God appeared before Job in the form of a whirlwind and asked him some very hard questions:

- Job, where were you when I created the earth?
- What did I set the earth's foundations on?
- Do you understand the secrets of the ocean springs?
- Do you know how large the earth is?
- Have you ever opened the gates of death?
- Where does light dwell, and where is the place of darkness?
- Can you bind the workings of the stars?

In the 38th and 39th chapters of Job, the questions continue--hard questions that Job could not answer.

After God had finished speaking, Job was very sorry for his proud attitude. He said, "Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay my hand upon my mouth" (Job 40:4)

When we admire nature, and as we study it and learn a few of its beautiful secrets, how important it is that we glorify the Creator for the wisdom that is His. How little we know! How much, much more there is that we can never discover unless He reveals it.

Surely He is the Inventor and Keeper of it all!

--Stanley K. Brubaker

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# THE PILGRIM

VOL. 32

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1985

NOS. 9 & 10

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

The angels who watched round the tomb,  
Where low the Redeemer was laid,  
When deep in mortality's gloom,  
He hid for a season His head,  
That veiled their fair face while He slept,  
And ceased their sweet harps to employ,  
Have witnessed His rising, and swept  
The chords with the triumphs of joy.

Oh, sweet is the season of rest,  
When life's weary journey is done:  
The blush that spreads over its west—  
The last lingering ray of its sun!  
Though dreary the empire of night,  
I soon shall emerge from its gloom,  
And see immortality's light,  
Arise from the shades of the tomb.

Then welcome the last rending sigh,  
When these aching heartstrings shall break,  
When death shall extinguish these eyes,  
And moisten with dew the pale cheek:  
No terror the prospect begets,  
I am not mortality's slave:  
The sunbeam of life, as it sets,  
Paints a rainbow of peace on the grave.

—W. B. Collyer

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## TRIBUTE TO A DEAR ELDER

"Church leaders are identified by their love for Jesus Christ and their loyalty to their denominations." It is fitting at the passing of Elder Daniel F. Wolf that some special mention be made of his life in The Pilgrim which he started.

The Old Brethren Church has not always had a publication. In its early days as a "denomination," Elder Owen C. Cripe published for several years (July, 1920—November 1926) a paper called Testimony of Truth. Later (August, 1947—December, 1954) Elder David Mohler used the same name for his monthly which was sent to many Old Brethren homes. But Brother Dan sensed a need in 1954 for a publication especially for us. He chose the name The Pilgrim which he later learned was the name of a paper published by some brethren before the divide nearly 100 years earlier (1870-1877).

In the first Pilgrim Brother Dan wrote, "We believe we can have a paper which should first and primarily serve the needs of the members of the Old Brethren Church, and at the same time present items of interest which could be both useful and edifying to our friends and acquaintances and Christian readers in general into whose hands it may come, whose interests and problems may be the same as ours... We plan to have a column for those who are interested in church history (of the Brethren Church in particular, and the historical Christian church in general) and to bring forward various writings of our early brethren, elucidating the historical doctrine and faith of our fathers, and also testimonies of the apostolic faith of Christians in past ages." This last revealed an interest in church history which Brother Dan developed and kept as long as he lived.

At the time The Pilgrim was begun, a number of us young fellows had been called to serve as conscientious

objectors and were away from home. I well remember the joy and help it was when this little paper came each month to give us encouragement.

During the nine years that he and his wife published The Pilgrim, Brother Dan labored many hours carefully writing the articles declaring his understanding of the Gospel with particular emphasis on the Kingdom—the Church—as the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies and promises. With his contracting business occupying his days, he worked late at night at the peril of his health. He finally felt the need to give over the work to others and to remain on as consulting editor.

In 1970, Brother Dan collected his writings on the Kingdom into a small book which he published himself. Heirs of the Promise tells simply and well of the promises to Abraham and his posterity finding their fulfillment in the Redeemer Jesus and His founding of the new nation of Israel. This New Israel is not limited to the natural seed of Abraham, but in Christ gathers citizens from all nations of the world. One of Brother Dan's proof texts—the one from which he adapted the name of his book—was Galatians 3:26-29: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Some of Brother Dan's other teachings were expressed in various pamphlets and tracts besides his articles in The Pilgrim. Some of his titles are "The Christians's Relationship to God and His Obligation to the Civil Powers," "Annual Meeting in the Dunker Church," "Biblical Separation," "Christian Witness in Attire," "The Old Testament Sabbath and the New Testament Lord's Day," "The Drawing of the Father and the New Birth," and "For the Law Was Given by Moses, but Grace and Truth Came by Jesus Christ." (These pamphlets are still available in limited quantities from The Pilgrim.)

Though Brother Dan's main interests were in the Scriptures and his ministry in the church, his talents also ranged to dairying, to building, and to cabinet-



making.. He was a skillful builder, having started as a carpenter and working up to his own contracting business.

Brother Dan was also a spiritual builder, and this, too, takes skill and effort and, above all, the grace of God. Dan and Sylvia were truly "given to hospitality" as Paul wrote a bishop should be. Many of us as young people remember good times repeated over and over as we gathered at the home of this dear couple. As evidence of their vision and concern for young people, Dan began our regular Bible study in 1958.

Lacking a family of their own, "Uncle Dan and Aunt Sylvia" generously extended their help to each new baby in the brotherhood and to the Old Brethren Christian Schools.

As in house building, spiritual building doesn't always seem to go fast. The results of a day's efforts do not always show to those around. Possibly only the glories and realities of Heaven will reveal the true results of the labors of some of those who have now passed on.

We thank God for this respected church leader and his consistency of temperament and testimony. Their nearly perfect record of church attendance was an example to all; Brother Dan and Sister Sylvia were virtually always in their places. The Old Brethren Church—just a tiny portion of God's Kingdom on earth—has lost a valuable servant. May we remember the things of God which he taught and stood for. May we also fill our places in Christ's Kingdom and be watching and praying till He comes again. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." —L.C.

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When the last feeble step has been taken  
And the gates of that city appear  
And the beautiful songs of the angels  
Float out on my listening ear.  
When all that now seems so mysterious  
Will be bright and as clear as the day,  
Then the toils of the road will seem nothing,  
When I get to the end of the way.

## HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE

"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (I John 5:11-12)

What beautiful words are recorded here for the one who has the Son, for he has life dwelling within, in fact, eternal life, for Jesus is eternal.

A while back I was visiting in a Christian home, and the parents shared with me how their son, although a member of a church body, had gone through deep depression, not even caring to live. But after counseling with a group of believers who tried to help people in this condition, had come out of his depression and had found a real purpose for life and a joy and peace and a longing to share with others of life in Christ. Also, the parents' faith was stimulated. On the wall in this home was a writing that I would like to share:

## JESUS CHRIST THE LORD HAS BECOME MY LIFE

Phil. 1:21: "For to me to live is Christ..."

Col. 3:4: "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear..."

Gal. 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..."

## THUS HE IS

My Strength—Ps. 27:1—"...The Lord is the strength of my life..."

My Wisdom

My Sanctification

My Redemption

I Cor. 1:30: "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

My Righteousness—II Cor. 5:21—"...That we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

My Spiritual Fullness—Col. 2:9-10—"For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him..."

My Victory—I Cor. 15:57—"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the Victory through our Lord Jesus

Christ." (also Col. 2:15)

My Joy—John 15:11—"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

My Hope—Col. 1:27—"...Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

My Peace—John 16:33—"...that in me ye might have peace..." Eph. 2:14—"For he is our peace..."

My Goodness "But the fruit of the

My Kindness Spirit is love, joy,

My Patience Gal. 5:22,23—peace, longsuffering,

My Faithfulness gentleness, goodness,

My Self Control faith, Meekness, temp-

My Gentleness erance: against such

there is no law." (or Christ within)

My Source of Forgiveness—Luke 23:34—"Then said Jesus, Father forgive them..."

My Freedom—Col. 2:16-17—"Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of an holy day..."

My Rest—Mt. 11:28, Heb. 4:10—"Come unto me—and I will give you rest For he that is entered into his rest."

My Source of Love—John 17:26—"That the love where with thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."

My Spiritual Mind—I Cor. 2:16—"But we have the mind of Christ."

My Access to God—John 14:6—"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

The theme of this writing is to show that we are not sufficient of ourselves to walk the Christian life. Without the power of the Holy Ghost (or Christ within) we are powerless. Beloved, we have need of earnest prayer. Whose love is it with which we love? Does it come from within our own hearts? No! No! It is the love of God shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Ghost (Rom. 5:5)"According as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Rom. 12:3)



It has been said, "It seems my life is a failure; I am tempted to give up; I have about lost confidence in myself." Well, praise the Lord! If we poor frail humans would lose confidence in ourselves entirely, and put all our trust and faith in the one who gives life and power, we would have a different story to tell. There's victory in Jesus. "For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." (I John 5:4)

Then we can boast as David did in the Lord: "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord." (Ps. 34:2) "Then said they unto him, What shall we do that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:28-29) "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Without that life within, mankind fills his empty mind with most anything to satisfy himself, but that life in Christ is satisfying, and the things of this world look strangely dim. I've never forgotten a remark I heard preached which was; "A spiritual man, when hearing of Jesus Christ and His word spoken of, comes alive, and a carnal man when hearing spiritual things goes dead, showing where the heart is."

It seems there are so many different beliefs and understandings of God's word in today's world, that many people feel confused and say, "What's the use, how can I sort all these understandings out? But, Praise the Lord! we don't have to." "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26) "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide

in him." (I John 2:27) Yes, there are many beliefs and understandings of God's word, but there's more to Christianity than just to believe something. There's real life in Christ, a real satisfaction, a real peace that is full, a love that reaches out to all mankind. But the Lord knows our hearts, He knows our sincerity and where our affection is. He wants communion with us. And when we give Him our hearts and affection and are faithful to Him (which includes being faithful to His word), He will teach us, and guide us into all truth.

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living waters.

"But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive..." (John 7:37-39) In I Cor. 7:32-35, Paul is warning the married how they care for the things that are of the world, how they may please their companion, and then says, "And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction." This Scripture seems to indicate a close walk with the Lord.

Here is a writing by Irving D. Larson, which I would like to share:

"Phillip Brooks told of a time when he had been pressing the claims of Christ upon a certain man whose response to him was: I have neither time nor room in my life for Christ. My life is too full now. You don't know how hard I work from morning till night. You don't know all the things that demand my time and energies now. When would I have time or room for Christ in such a life as mine? In commenting about this, Mr. Brooks said, It is as if the engine had said it had no room for the steam. It is as if the tree had said it had no room for the sap. It is like the ocean saying it had no room for the tide. It is a man saying that he has no room for his soul. How true were his words! After all, what is life? Life, all life, comes from



God, and is centered in Jesus Christ. Peter refers to Christ in his epistle as the Prince of Life. Christ is the author of all life, and thus the secret of true life. How absurd it is for anyone to say, "My life is so full that I have no room for life." Yet this is actually what they are saying when they have no room for Christ, for He is the very essence of life. Christianity is not something that is added to life; it is life itself. Thank God that you have learned the secret of life, in the Author of life, Jesus Christ."

"And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely." (Rev. 21:6)

May we be broken vessels, and feel our need of that life within, that the Potter can mold us, and use us for His glory.

In Christian Love,  
Kenneth Garber  
Twain Harte, California

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### MEDITATION

#### TEARS

Tears seem to be a natural body function to relieve stress from any emotion that deeply affects us. There may be tears of sorrow, joy, self-pity, pain, sympathy, victory, and many too numerous to mention. Of course, this function can become weakened like any other part of our bodies. The shortest verse, St. John 11:35, says, "Jesus wept," showing His great love and compassion for us, even though He knew it was all for good and to glorify God.

—Ernest Wagner  
Modesto, California

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### COMMUNION NOTICE

The California fall Lovefeast meeting is appointed for November 2 & 3 at the Salida Meeting house. All are welcome to come and worship with us.

—Joseph L. Cover



## THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

As we read about Abraham and his faithfulness to God, we think, he must have had a Godly home to grow up in. In studying more about his life, I find that Terah, Abraham's father did not know God. I can find nothing about his mother. Lot's father Haran was Terah's brother.

The Bible says Terah took Abram, Lot, and Sarai, Abram's wife, and went from Ur of the Chaldees, to go to the land of Canaan. They came to Haran, their first stopping place, and dwelt there. Haran was 600 miles northwest of Ur of the Chaldees, 400 miles northeast of Canaan. It was at Haran that Terah died at 205 years old.

When Abram was 75 years old, the Lord told him to get out of this country, and leave his kindred and his father's house, and go to a land that He would show him. Genesis 12:2: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing." Abram, Sarai, and Lot departed as the Lord had said, As they passed through Canaan, they came to Sichem. This was the first place Abram visited in Palestine. The Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land." From Sichem, they went to Bethel; from Bethel they traveled south. As they were going south, there was a great famine in the land. As they entered Egypt, Abram said to Sarai, "The Egyptians will look at you, for you are fair to look at, and will say you are my wife. They will kill me, and save you. Tell Pharaoh you are my sister, and I will live." The princes of Pharaoh saw Sarai and commended her to Pharaoh, and she was taken to him. Abram was entreated well for her sake. Because Sarai was Abram's wife, the Lord plagued Pharaoh and his house.

Abram, Sarai, Lot and all their possessions left Egypt, and returned back to Bethel, where Abram had built an altar. There again he called upon the name of the Lord. Abram and Lot both had flocks and herds, enough that, "the land was not able to bear them, that

they might dwell together." They both had herdsmen to look after their stock; and, like today, where there are people, there will be problems. There was strife between the herdsmen. Genesis 13:8: "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen, and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." Abram told Lot, "Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left." Didn't Abram have the attitude we should all have? God's word says we should consider each other over ourself. When we are dealing with each other, if we could remember "We are brethren," there would be no special council meetings or church committees. "Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where." Lot chose the place of Jordan and they separated themselves. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. The Bible says the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly. As Lot was looking around to make his choice where to dwell, his natural eye, saw that the land was well watered. I am sure things looked prosperous. It is no fault to live on a good piece of land. Where Lot made his mistake was that he pitched his tent toward Sodom. I am sure Lot wasn't totally ignorant of the fact that Sodom was a wicked place. There is a saying, that "Birds of like feather flock together." We are known by the company we keep. I do not believe Lot was a wicked man, but on the other hand, I don't know how Godly he was. The thing that Lot failed in is he had a good natural eye to pick out a good place to dwell as far as the ground, but what about his spiritual eye. Too many times we want what we want, but fail to see some other things that Satan is tempting us with. The Lord told Abram to "arise, walk through the land, in the length of it, and the breadth of it, for I will give it unto thee. (to be continued)

—Everett Oyler, New Paris, Indiana

## SWEET RIVERS

Sweet rivers of redeeming love  
Lie just before mine eyes;  
Had I the pinions of a dove,  
I'd to those rivers rise;  
I'd rise superior to my pain,  
With joy outstrip the wind,  
And cross bold Jordan's stormy main,  
And leave this world behind.

While I'm imprisoned here below  
In anguish, pain, and smart,  
Oft-times my troubles I forego,  
While love surrounds my heart;  
In darkest shadow of the night,  
Faith mounts the upper sky;  
I then behold my heart's delight,  
And could rejoice to die!

I view the monster death, and smile,  
For he has lost his sting,  
And Satan trembles all the while,  
Triumphant I can sing;  
I hold my Saviour in my arms,  
And will not let Him go;  
I'm so delighted with His charms,  
No other good I know.

A few more days or years at most,  
My troubles will be o'er,  
And I shall join the heavenly host  
On Canaan's peaceful shore.  
My happy soul will drink and feast  
On love's unbounded sea;  
The glorious hope of endless rest  
Is pleasing news to me.

Author unknown



## OBITUARY

DANIEL F. WOLF, son of John F. and Catherine Alice (Teel) Wolf, was born June 22, 1903, near Quinter, Kansas. In 1906, he moved with his parents to Sheridan Lake, Colorado; then in 1913, the family moved to Modesto, California.

At the age of 16 years, he received Christian baptism and became a member of the Old Brethren Church, in which he remained faithful until death.

On November 27, 1926, he was united in marriage to Sylvia M. Flora. Their companionship was enjoyed for nearly 59 years.

The first year of their married life was spent in Indiana in the occupation of farming. In 1927, they moved to Rio Oso, California, and were engaged in fruit farming. In 1930, they returned to the Modesto area where he spent the remainder of his life in farming and carpentry.

In 1930, he was called to the ministry and served as presiding elder from 1964 to 1980 in the Salida congregation. He was founder and editor of The Pilgrim from 1954 until 1963.

In his failing health, he called for the anointing service from which he received much comfort.

He passed away from this life on October 11, 1985, at Doctors Medical Center, Modesto, at the age of 82 years, 3 months, and 19 days.

Dan is survived by his beloved wife, Sylvia, of Modesto; three sisters: Esther Johnson and Mary Cripe of Modesto, and Martha Parrish of Sonora; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and one sister. A life of Christian character has been lived, and will live on in the memory of those that knew him.

Funeral services were held at the West Modesto German Baptist Church on October 16, 1985, with the home brethren officiating. The congregation sang hymns 455, 403, and 477 at the church and 456 at the grave in Wood Colony Cemetery, Modesto.

—The Family

## BAPTISMS

September 15, we brethren, sisters, and friends of Rio Verde, Brazil, rejoiced much when another precious soul, Sebastiao Barros, was received into our fellowship by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and holy baptism. May he ever be faithful and helpful in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

We again thanked our Heavenly Father and rejoiced with the holy angels when two more precious souls (a husband and wife), Victor and Neusa de Fatima Alves, were received into fellowship September 29 by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and holy baptism. May they be faithful and helpful to their calling of the Father in Christ Jesus.

—Wade Flora

## BIRTHS

ALVES - a daughter, Rafaela Paula, born in Rio Verde September 3, and adopted September 11 by Victor and Fatima Alves of Rio Verde, Brazil.

ROYER - a daughter, Charlotte Eileen, born September 25 to David and Elva Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

## NEW ADDRESSES AND CHANGES

James Beery	67445 C.R. 11 Nappanee, Ind. 46550
Raymond Wrightsman	The Village Hamlet Lot 27 North Manchester, Indiana 46962 (219) 982-6877
Alcidia Pereira Maio	All c/o Wade Flora
Lazara da Silva Machada	C. P. 130
Sebastiao Barros	Rio Verde 76200
Victor Nunes Alves	Goiias, Brazil, S. A.

## CHILDREN'S PAGE

### FRUITFUL FLOWERS

Do you like bright pretty colors? Do you enjoy delicate beauty? Do you marvel at the graceful symmetry of nature's countless designs? If you do, you probably love flowers.

Almost everyone enjoys flowers. Surely they are one of God's most precious little nature gifts to mankind. On wintery days, when the snows are blustering outside, we look to the flowers on our windowsill for their cheerful promise of joy. They cost so little. Their tiny seeds or cuttings, if we handle them properly, soon multiply until we have extra ones to give away. People who like to work with their hands, people who like to share with others, people who appreciate God's creation, all enjoy flowers.

Are flowers just "for pretty"? Did God design their showy petals just to satisfy our hunger for beauty? Are they a frivolous "extra" we could well do without?

No, flowers are necessary for supporting life. Without flowers there would be no seed, no fruit, no food for tomorrow. So much of the food we eat depends on the flowers to attract the bees or butterflies that carry the pollen to help the living germ to grow.

Flowers are also important in teaching us one of the most important lessons of life: that man passes quickly away. Death is not pleasant. We hate to see the beauty of the flower decay to a withering brown. But, like the flower, man must die before he can multiply and bear a more glorious resurrection fruit.

May each one of us, like God's fruitful flowers, shine in His pure beauty, and live for Him, our Creator.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

"For as soon as the sun rises with its burning heat it withers the grass, and its flower falls and the beauty of its design dies..." (paraphrased) James 1:11-12a



## FOR YOUTH

### OUR WILLS

Everyone who is born is given a will that leads him to eternal life or eternal death. There are only two paths to take and we each have a choice of which path we will take.

Our wills can be very strong and determined things. If that will is controlled by greed and selfishness, lust and pride, it is sure to lead to sin and misery, and finally death. This path may seem fine and pleasing to the flesh, but no true happiness is found. In contrast, a strong will can be of much help and encouragement and also upbuilding if it is yielded and submitted to the control of God. By submitting our will to God we have the wonderful power source to help us on to eternal life.

One of the definitions of will is choice. God has given us the choice or the will to choose whichever way we want.

This will that God has given us is a free will, and yet, in the end, we will not be forever free unless we choose God's will.

We should pray with the Psalmist David, "Teach me thy will, O Lord." Jesus taught us to pray, "Not my will, but Thine, be done." With God directing our wills we are choosing eternal life.

Joanna Coning  
Goshen, Indiana

"Take my will and make it Thine,  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart, it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne."

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## PRAISE

When sun and moon and twinkling stars  
With grateful shining tell  
Of God who hung them in the sky  
Creation's hymn to swell,  
Shall I, with living mind and heart,  
In God's own likeness made,  
Forget to bring my thankful song,  
And leave His love unpaid?

When birds pour forth their happy praise  
As through the air thy fly,  
And blossoms lift their dewy cups  
To greet the gracious sky:  
When nature's voices everywhere  
Up to their Maker come,  
Shall I, with greater gifts than all,  
Before His throne be dumb?

O God, whose grandeur fills the worlds,  
My foolish thoughts oft stray from Thee,  
My deepest soul awake!  
Utter thine anthems day and night  
To Him, our King adored;  
Rival the angels in their strain,  
In chanting "Praise the Lord."

Mrs. Adaline H. Beery

## THANKSGIVING IN ALL THINGS

True thanksgiving comes from a submissive heart tuned to God's will. Americans seem to have the mistaken idea that we can and should give thanks only when there is "something to be thankful for." Give thanks for the blessings, the prosperity, the freedom. Give thanks for healing, for rescues, for deliverance. But the biblical conditions for thanksgiving are not so limited, for the apostle writes, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (I Thess. 5:18)

Of course, we might back off and conclude (like some would say about Paul's instructions to the Corinthians) that this statement was only for the Thessalonians! But we believe it is for us, and may we here consider a few thoughts and examples showing that truly men of past ages have given thanks in adverse conditions as well as in prosperous ones.

In Acts 5, it tells that the apostles (likely all twelve) were arrested for their preaching and working of miracles among the people of Jerusalem. They were put in prison, tried, beaten, and ordered to quit speaking in the name of Jesus. It looked like a real setback for the gospel and the new church, and likely it would have been but for the Holy Spirit's work of grace and faith in the hearts of these men. Did they quit? Did they go into hiding? Did they complain and nurse their wounds or even get angry? No, they re-joyiced "that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

This is the reaction of Spirit-filled men in the face of opposition and persecution for the faith. Paul and Silas in Philippi with their clothes torn off, their feet fast in the stocks, their backs sore from "many stripes," thrust into the inner prison still



sang praises to God.

Daniel, Joseph, and Nehemiah all continued to praise God even in captivity in heathen, foreign lands.

Perhaps the most surprising instance of thanksgiving in adversity is Jonah in the whale. Jonah does not appear as the most lovable or pleasing man of history. His unwillingness and later discouragement are apparent in his book. But from the belly of the whale (or great fish) with weeds wrapped about his head and the depth closed round about him, he gave these words to God: "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving..." Why? Did he realize he was only receiving from God his just punishment? Did he thank God for the whale's rescuing him from drowning? Or did he perhaps in a flash of revelation realize that God was with him and whether he lived or died he was safe?

The stripes or punishment that God allows do not necessarily show His disfavor. See Job's experience. Did it mean that God had deserted him just because Job didn't understand?

When my brother and I were young we decided to set out across the hills and valleys to try to find a small waterfall visible in the distance from our mountain home. The first attempt ended in failure because as we walked into the valleys we could no longer see our goal. For the next attempt we used a compass. We took a reading on our destination. Then as we hiked through the valleys and brush we would pick out a tree or other object on our directional course and head for it. By maintaining a consistent direction, we finally arrived at the waterfall.

So with us. Sometimes we go through a valley of sorrow or trouble in which we cannot see our goal. It is then we must keep our bearings—keep our eyes on God and remember He has promised to be with us in the valleys—even in "the valley of the shadow of death" Is this occasion for thanksgiving?

We should be thankful in adversity because of the lessons we can learn and that God is with us. The

apostles praised God, not necessarily for their stripes, but "that they were accounted worthy to suffer shame for his name." Paul writes in Romans 5:3-5 "...We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." "He leadeth me, O blessed thought!"

It seems that Jonah did better in the whale than he did waiting to see what would happen to Ninevah. It appears that he actually wanted God to destroy Ninevah. These were enemy people who already were beginning to war against Israel and would eventually conquer and captivate them. But Jonah did not know of God's great mercy when people repent. Twice God asked Jonah, "Doest thou well to be angry?" And Jonah answered, "I do well to be angry, even unto death." Where is his thanksgiving now? But God was patient and continued to reason with him.

How is it with us? Many times we say, "We have so much to be thankful for." This is true. But does this "so much" include the lessons we can learn from the valleys of discouragement, pain, sorrow, trouble, conflict? Sometimes we react with anger when things don't go our way. "Doest thou well to be angry?" is a good question for us, too. "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." (James 1:20)

In this thanksgiving time can we "In everything give thanks," knowing this is God's will for us? Can we see that if we lost all our possessions, our health, our friends, and our freedom we would still be rich if we had Jesus as our Saviour? And can we see how poor we would be if we lost Jesus and had all the other?

We are bound to thank God in prosperity. But the real thanksgiving is when we thank Him in adversity, gladly submitting to His will.

Paul exclaims at the end of II Corinthians 9: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." This gift is Jesus and His atonement for our sins. —L.C.



## THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL (continued)

The Lord told Abram to "arise, walk through the land, in the length of it, and the breadth of it, for I will give it unto thee. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the place of Mamre which is in Hebron, and built an altar unto the Lord."

In Chapter 14, it tells about a battle of four kings against five. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were involved also. In the end of the battle, the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and all the people and goods were taken including Lot and all his possessions. There was one that escaped and told Abram what had happened. When Abram heard that Lot was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, 318 in all, and pursued them unto Dan. Verse 15—"And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus." Abram brought back Lot and all his goods, including the goods and people from Sodom and Gomorrah. Again we see Abram had compassion on his nephew. Although their herdmen did fuss back and forth, we can see that Abram still believed what he told Lot earlier, "We are brethren."

Sarai had a handmaid, an Egyptian. Her name was Hagar. Sarai gave Hagar to Abram to be his wife. When Sarai realized what she had done, she delt harshly with Hagar, and she fled into the wilderness. By a fountain, an angel of the Lord found her and asked why she was there. She said she fled from her mistress. The angel told her to return and submit to Sarai. If only we could do this, take this advice, and let the Lord deal with us and mold us for His work. Genesis 16:15: "And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael." Abram was 86, when Ishmael was born. When Abram was 99, the Lord said "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be called Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." Also Sarai's name was changed to Sarah.



Chapters 18 and 19 tell us of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. One of the most sad times of all for us as parents, is when we realize there is to be destruction in our children's lives if they do not change their ways. Lot tried to warn his daughters and their husbands. "But he seemed as one that mocked unto his son-in-laws." I hope we can remember that when Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom, he couldn't expect to be free from the wickedness of the city. There are many ways we can pitch our tent toward Sodom, and it doesn't have to be close to a big city. When Lot tried to calm the men that were after the three strangers, he told them, "I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly." This tells me that Lot was much too friendly with these wicked men, or how could he call them brethren?

When Abraham was 100, Sarah gave him a son Isaac. "...And the child grew and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned:" It was at this feast that Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, mocking. Sarah told Abraham to "cast out this bondwoman, and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight, because of his son." God told Abraham to hearken to all that Sarah said, so Abraham took water and bread and gave Hagar and her son, and sent them away.

Now we come to the old familiar story of how God did tempt Abraham. "Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." The word says, "Abraham rose up early in the morning" to do God's bidding. I probably would have been slow to get around hoping something would happen that I couldn't go. We know how many times Abraham was told to do a certain thing and he did it. That is what we all need to do: do what His word says, and not try to reason things out to suit us.

On the third day after Abraham, Isaac, and two

young men had departed, Abraham saw the place God had told him. He told the two young men to stay there, and that he and Isaac would go and worship and come again to them. On the way up the mountain, Isaac asked his father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." Abraham built an altar and placed the wood in order and bound Isaac and laid him on the wood. I have often wondered if there was any conversation while this was taking place. How would we react in a time like this? Abraham had his knife raised to slay his only son, and an angel said, "Abraham, Abraham." He was told not to hurt his son, "...for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou has not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." Abraham looked and there was a ram caught in the brush.

How wonderful God's plan works out if we are faithful to Him! As we can see in Abraham's life, we are not promised to go through life without heart-aches.

—Everett Oyler

New Paris, Indiana

### BAPTISMS

On Sunday, October 27, we rejoiced with the angels of heaven when Daniel R. Wagner was taken into church fellowship by Christian baptism at Wakarusa, Indiana. May he be faithful unto eternal life.

—Hollis Flora

We of the Goshen congregation were made to rejoice upon two occasions recently when two precious souls were received into our fellowship by a public confession of faith in Jesus Christ and water baptism: Daniel Beery on October 30, and Samuel Royer on November 10. May they be faithful in the service of the Master.

—Melvin Coning



## THE GREATEST ENEMY

Gossip is a great enemy of Christianity; the gossip, a great friend of the Devil.

Jesus, in His great love, is constantly striving to help the sinner. He is ever waiting to take away his sin and free him from his burden. According to His promise, He takes away the sin of the sinner, casting it into the depths of the sea and remembers his iniquity no more. Thus the sinner is able to stand justified in the sight of God, and to begin anew as though he had never sinned. This is the plan of God; this is His way of dealing with every repented sin.

The gossip, however, digs deep into the cauldrons of iniquity or dives recklessly into the depths of the sea and restores these forgotten sins. He uses the elements of truth found there as the basis of a grossly exaggerated story through which the sins which Jesus remembers no more will be heralded to the community. The angels weep, the devils laugh, and unfortunately, humanity listens. Thus, the one in whom the image of God has been restored is made to appear, through the artifices of the Devil and the gossip, as the most despicable of men. Unfortunately, this is done all too often by one who also claims to be a Christian.

Gossiping, however, is only one of the many mortifying sins of the gossip. In presenting the sins of others to his fellow man he expresses horror at such sin while at the same time he is engaging in the great sin of gossiping. Thus, he is a hypocrite. Truth is seldom spectacular enough to meet the tastes of a gossip and few indeed are his stories which are not colored with rumor, suspicions and innuendoes. Thus he becomes a bearer of false witness against his neighbor. Constantly, he is stirring up strife, destroying reputations, and fighting against the best interest of God and man.

The course of the gossip is never predictable. Today he may be telling you a choice bit of gossip; tomorrow he may be telling others a choice bit of gos-



sip about you. Thieves deal in money; murderers in life; gossipers in reputation and character. Surely, no Christian can afford to associate with any of these, especially the gossip.

With the beauties of nature about us in the physical world we are reminded of the admonition of the Apostle Paul in our spiritual lives, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philipians 4:8.

Let us determine that we will tell only those things which are true, kind, and helpful and that we will not listen to any gossip. —Selected

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#### HE TEACHES YOU

He's greater far, that little child, than you;  
The very child you teach; he teaches you.  
You teach him to be Christlike, but have you  
Forgotten he already is, far more than you?  
You teach him right from wrong, and yet it's he,  
Not you, whose conscience is more clear and free.  
You teach him trust in God, but can't you see  
That it is you who lack trust more than he?  
For you find doubt and reason in your way,  
While he in simple faith believes straightway.  
You teach him to forgive, but don't you know  
That he forgives in half the time you do?  
And he, when he forgives, at once forgets;  
But you? You struggle long with grudge and debts.  
You try to teach him love. You can't. You cry,  
"My child, you are the teacher, and not I!"  
So learn from him, be like him, you who teach.  
You must, Christ says, if heaven you would reach.

By Ida Boyer Bontrager  
Selected by Norman Cable

## CHRIST'S HOUR

There is an hour, a certain hour,  
The hour of destiny;  
Appointed by Almighty power,  
For all eternity!

It is Christ's hour, His suffering hour,  
The hour of sacrifice;  
To bring God's love into full flower,  
Before His creature's eyes!

There is an hour, a special hour,  
The hour of sin's payment;  
Set to destroy the devil's power,  
Jesus, for this, is sent!

It is Christ's hour, His trying hour,  
The hour of Heaven's gift;  
To raise Salvation's great high tower,  
The holy Lamb to lift!

There is an hour, above all hours,  
The hour that meets man's need;  
A sure Saviour henceforth is ours,  
The blessed virgin's seed!

It is Christ's hour, best of His hours,  
The hour of victory;  
Calvary's blessing comes down in showers,  
Rising in His glory!

His hour of death, His hour of shame,  
The end of breath for Christ who came;  
His hour of strife, His hour to win,  
Eternal life He buys for men!

—Hollis Edward Flora

## BLESS THE DIRTY DISHES

I'm glad for dirty dishes,  
Though often piled up high;  
Sometimes it seems they're never done,  
But still I'm thankful—why?

Because time spent in washing,  
In my too-crowded day;  
Is time well-used to catch my breath,  
And frequently, to pray.

It's a time for thanking God,  
For praising and for song;  
A reminder of our bounty,  
And that our hands are strong.

The little children love,  
To splash in bubbles blue;  
Yet, all the while learning  
That they are helpers, too.

And isn't it a special place,  
For working side by side;  
Where mothers, daughters, sisters  
Come to listen, share, confide?

I'm thankful for our dishes,  
It's work from God above;  
He uses them to teach us  
Patience, care and love.

—Susan Harper

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I reckon him a Christian indeed that is neither  
ashamed of the Gospel, nor a shame to it.

—Matthew Henry



## HISTORICAL

## HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

## THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

These three epistles of Paul the Apostle are different in that they are written to individuals rather than to churches. They show the love, care, and concern Paul had for Timothy and Titus who were evidently younger men and converts of Paul to the faith of Jesus Christ.

## I TIMOTHY AND TITUS

The first letter to Timothy and the one to Titus were probably written during Paul's time of freedom after he had been in prison and released. He wrote to Timothy at Ephesus, hoping to go there in person before long. (3:14) The note at the end of I Timothy says Paul wrote from Laodicea.

Titus was in Crete setting in order things that were "wanting" and ordaining elders in the various churches. Paul wrote to Titus from Nicopolis of Macedonia.

In both these epistles Paul outlines, among other things, qualifications for bishops or elders, and to Timothy he adds qualities required in deacons.

## II TIMOTHY

The second letter to Timothy was written from prison. It is his last letter of which we have record, and contains references to afflictions as a prisoner (1:8), to bonds (2:9), and to his friends' forsaking him (4:10 & 16). This epistle also records Paul's statement of victory: "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight..." (4:6-8)

How precious should these Scriptures be to us! We read of Paul's intense devotion to Jesus, by whose grace he was accepted. We also read of Paul's concern for the churches and his fatherly confidence in these

two young ministers of the Gospel. His instructions to them are priceless guidelines for us today. —L.C.

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100 YEARS AGO

## HOME

The following article appeared in the April, 1885, Vindicator as a selection.

Home! "There is no place like home." Never was a truer sentence penned by the human hand. The possessor of a true home has an element of strength, a sense of security, a feeling of personal worth and self-respect, a knowledge that in one place at least he is missed when absent and his presence is a necessity to its completeness; one place where his successful undertakings and well-doings confer honor; one place where, should misfortune or disappointment be his, sympathy and help await him. The members of the home sustain for one another a oneness of feeling that neither time nor distance can destroy.

"You may take the bright shell from its home on the lea,  
But wherever it goes it will sing of the sea;  
Lo take the fond heart from its home and its hearth,  
And 'twill sing of its loved to the end of the earth."

It matters not how much or how little of this world's goods is contained there, for the essential of home is love. We read that the Emperor Conrad refused all terms of capitulation to the garrison of Winnisberg; but permitted the women to depart with such precious effects as they themselves could carry. The gates of the city were thrown open; and from the homes of wealth and luxury; where were costly jewels and works of art so beautiful to behold, as well as from the homes of the lowly, came a long procession of matrons, each bearing a husband, a father, or a brother on her shoulder, and passed in safety through the applauding camp.

From the homes must come the glory or shame of the nation....

Selected by John Schonwald

## MEDITATION

SIGNS

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When Jesus sent out His disciples to preach, He gave them power to do the same things they saw Him do. We would rejoice to see these signs today. But are we neglecting to use the sign that is available to us? Jesus said: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Today believers are scattered in groups, some holding one another at arm's length because of traditions and minor differences of belief. Remember the second commandment: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." Apostle Paul wrote: "...Do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10)

When Isaiah spoke of the glorious day of slavation, he said, "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

Ernest Wagner

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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"Thus saith the Lord" is found 1960 times in the Old Testament. It is not found in profane literature.

When we teach "Thus saith the Lord" in church, home, or elsewhere, we are on solid ground.

—Selected



## CHILDREN'S PAGE

## LEAFY BRANCHES

Who has never admired the beautiful branch of a tree? Who has not hung from one, swung from one, or climbed one eagerly? Who is there who has never once plucked off a colorful leaf and marveled at the tiny intricate designs that "just grew there" as part of the leaf?

We all enjoy the leafy branches of deciduous trees. Even a blind person can enjoy the texture of the bark and twigs, and the papery thin leaves. He can smell the fragrance of the wood, the buds, and the flowers, and, of course, can appreciate the branch's welcome shade on a hot summer day.

We have many reasons to marvel at the common, everyday branches of trees. Like most of God's works, they have more beauty and strange purposes on the inside than we can ever discover just by looking at the outer covering. The millions of tiny orderly cells, (so many different kinds of them!) make up all the various parts of the tree. The cells are joined together by a master Creator like bricks in a wall, but they are so much more than bricks. They live, they change, they exchange chemicals continually, that the tree might live and grow. And why? To purify the air, to store water and valuable minerals, to provide food for birds and wildlife and man, to give shade from the sun, lumber and firewood for our homes, and, of course, for places for children to swing and play.

Our arms can be like leafy branches. They can reach out, upward toward God to receive the living water and the pure light of His presence, and can fulfil their purpose by blessing all who pass by.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

## FOR YOUTH

## OH, THE BLESSEDNESS OF PRAYER

It often is at close of day, I need  
To lay my burdens, problems, cares  
Before someone I feel at ease to share  
My secret thoughts, my unknown deeds.  
I also feel at dawn of day, the need  
To tell someone how glad I am to be spared  
Another day to live, to try to bear  
My frequent failures caused by thoughtless heed  
To what I feel and know is right and good.  
These two persistent daily voids, I find  
Can have a cure. Praise God, there is a place where  
We each alone can go, a place where would  
We unrestrained pour forth our heart and mind,  
We'd feel calm reassurance. Oh, the blessedness  
of Prayer!

—Jolene Huffman  
Dayton, Ohio

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## THE PLACE OF PEACE

At the heart of the cyclone tearing the sky  
And flinging the clouds and the towers by,  
Is a place of central calm;  
So here in the roar of mortal things,  
I have a place where my spirit sings,  
In the hollow of God's palm.

By Edwin Markham

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"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." *1 Peter 2:11*

## GOOD NEWS FROM HEAVEN THE ANGELS BRING

Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a Child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
Who in all need shall aid afford;  
He will Himself our Saviour be,  
From all our sins to set us free.

All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn,  
Whose love did not the sinner scorn;  
In my distress Thou comest to me;  
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,  
Beset with gold and jewels rare;  
She yet were far too poor to be  
A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,  
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled  
Within my heart, that it may be  
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

Praise God upon His heavenly throne  
Who gave to us His only Son;  
For this His hosts, on joyful wing,  
A blest New Year of mercy sing.

—Martin Luther 1535

Translated by Catherine Winkworth



## "RISING AGAIN"

"God is good!" We had an elderly friend (now gone to his reward) who used to repeat this phrase frequently. Even though his life had been partly wasted in sin and unhappiness, he could declare the goodness of God which had brought him to the Saviour. And this could well summarize God's dealing with man. He is always good, though His creatures are not.

Nowhere was the goodness of God demonstrated more completely than when He sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. Promised and prophesied for centuries, the fulfillment began to come in the Bethlehem manger and climaxed in the cross—the death—and the resurrection of Jesus.

The "just and devout" Simeon in the temple at Jerusalem told Joseph and Mary some words that should make God's goodness personal to each of us: "...Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against: (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:34, 35) These words were a prophecy that has been fulfilled over and over again, and can be real in my life and yours. Let us consider the parts of this far-reaching pronouncement.

### THE FALL

"The fall" is recorded and described in Genesis, but it is demonstrated in each person. Sin is a fall. And it is stated that "all have sinned," so all have fallen. We are very much aware of this. But the fall Simeon declares that "this child is set for" is another kind. Jesus, in Matthew 21:42-44, described the stone which the builders rejected. We know He meant Himself. Then he told them, "and whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall

fall, it will grind him to powder." Here is the opportunity to fall on Jesus and plead for His pardon and help. It is a voluntary act, whereas the alternate of being ground to powder is not.

Paul was struck down on the Damascus road, but his fall on the stone really came when he questioned, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He was broken on that Rock.

In each of our lives there must be a fall or there will be no rising again. Satan will do all in his power to prevent this "fall." To some, like the rich young ruler, he proposes that the step is too great. To get rid of riches, to give up our sins, to quit our play and indulging, to enter the strait gate—it is just too much to ask. Pride and possessions have kept many from the true riches. If we see the value of God's peace and forgiveness and what it cost Jesus to bring it, no step we could take would seem too great.

For others Satan would try to persuade that they really do not have the choice—that God will call or strike down or compel them in some way. One man (probably many) said that when God was "good and ready," He would call him. But he didn't seem to realize that since he had heard the Gospel and read the Word, therefore he had been called, and the next move was his.

For still others, Satan argues unworthiness. He charges, "You have gone too far. And even if you repent, you will sin again. What's the use?" If we listen to this, we fail to see the grace of God and His power not only to save but to "keep us from falling." Except for those proud and unbelieving, Jesus met no one He regarded as hopeless. In fact, He declared that "all things are possible to him that believeth."

Some even refuse to admit the reality of the danger. For hours after the Titanic struck the iceberg that gouged the fatal hole in her hull, passengers refused to believe the ship was going down. Many procrastinated and lost their lives while lifeboats floated safely with room for more. So we see no cause for alarm. But this world is a stricken ship. It is a doomed planet.

Read II Peter 3. Now is the time to fall on the rock for safety.

This is no time for pretense. Only honesty about ourselves will do. I read about a group of ministers who met for counsel and help. They began to tell of their great success in their various congregations, building programs, finances. But the last one with his head bowed declared he must be in the wrong place because his congregation was in a mess, he had personal problems at home, he was considering giving up his ministry, and he had come for help. At his honest confession, the others also confessed that they too had needs and problems too large for them. In the atmosphere of truth they could council together, help one another, and seek God's guidance.

#### RISING AGAIN

To experience the fall is not all there is, because Jesus is also set for "a rising again of many in Israel." The lame man healed by Peter and John "entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping and praising God." When we are set free from sin, we too will shout for joy.

The rising again is the part over which Satan has no influence. This is God's part and He is faithful. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

As I write, the sun is coming up; the light is increasing. No man can prevent it. Another day has arrived in which we may work and talk and live. Has this day dawned in your heart? Have you fallen on the stone and been broken? If you have or if you will, you will have a rising again. The night of sin and bondage must give way to the rising because God, the Creator, Jesus, His Son, and His Holy Spirit decreed it.

As we think of Jesus in the manger, may we pray for the rising again of many in Israel. The world in its celebration will not promote this work of God. But the

(Continued on page 15.)



"AND LET US CONSIDER ONE ANOTHER  
TO PROVOKE UNTO LOVE AND TO GOOD WORKS:"

Often we hear someone say, "There is nothing for me to do." In God's service, there is enough for everyone to do; much more than we can do in a lifetime. What do we want to do? Naaman was told what to do to cleanse him of his leprosy, but he wanted to do some great thing, so he went away in a rage. We all have this same problem to deal with, and that is self. If we could get rid of self, this thing of "nothing to do" would disappear. In Luke 10 we read of the priest that saw the poor man lying half dead along the side of the road and passed by on the other side. I have heard him called "Mr. Selfishness." Many times in life we, too, are so selfish that we can only think of me. Then came the Levite; someone called him "Mr. Curiosity." When he was at the place, he came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side." Again, like "Mr. Curiosity," we sometimes are so curious about a certain thing, and when we are there and find out, we just pass by. We need to be like the Samaritan who, "as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him." There is a multitude of ways that we can bind up the wounds of our brethren. There are many ways of pouring in the oil of comfort. We can also set him on our own beast, give him some of our comforts. It won't hurt for us to walk, while others ride. Job 29:15, 16: "I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor, and the cause which I knew not, I searched out."

How can any one say, "There is nothing for me to do"? When we study Romans 12:3, it puts us in our place: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure

of faith." I am human just like you are, and many times we think things we shouldn't. Yes, if we are honest, we even think too highly of ourselves, sometimes. To me, the key to this verse is "according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." If we stop, and honestly measure our faith to God's word, how humble we ought to be. There will be no room for any big I's and little you's. Verse 4 and 5: "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of one another." In another translation it says, "And each member belongs to all the others."

John Wesley traveled two hundred and fifty thousand miles on horseback, averaging twenty miles a day for forty years, preached forty thousand sermons, produced four hundred books, knew ten languages. At eighty-three he was annoyed that he could not write for more than fifteen hours a day without hurting his eyes, and at eighty-six he was ashamed he could not preach more than twice a day. He complained in his diary that there was an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5:30 in the morning!

Let us then be up and doing  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.

—Everett Oyler  
New Paris, Indiana

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DISCIPLINE: THE MOST URGENT INGREDIENT  
FOR CHARACTER BUILDING

May none challenge the truth expressed in the title. Discipleship requires discipline. Without discipline, discipleship is impossible. Proverbs 29:15 tells us, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (his father also). Reproof is important, but the purpose of the rod is to

reinforce what is said. Look at an undisciplined person, young, old, or anywhere between, and you will see a marred and deformed character, very unlovely to behold and more unlovely to live with or be around. They are self-willed, selfish, self-centered, stubborn, rebellious, disobedient, loud, proud, thankless, moody, complainers, easily angered, intemperate, lazy, dishonest, foul-mouthed, careless, foolish, unstable, discontented, and miserable.

Lack of discipline is the chief factor in today's "enlightened" society, and one can readily see the results. Detention centers are overflowing with delinquents—juvenile and adult. Juvenile delinquency is the result of adult delinquency. With proper, diligent, God-honoring teaching reinforced with discipline, what would ordinarily turn out to be an unpleasant thorn will be transformed into a rose, with all its fragrance and beauty—quite a contrast! Is there any wonder the subject suggests discipline as the most urgent ingredient for character building? This, of course, requires wisdom and grace from above. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." We must honor His Word and pray for wisdom, but the work will not be done by prayer alone. This is true in the home, in the school, or in the church. When Joshua was praying for Israel (in the experience at Ai) God told him to get up—there was work to be done, some housecleaning to do (however unpleasant the task), for present and future blessing.

Building character suggests it can not be left to chance. Knowing the inherent nature of every child regardless of his family tree, there is no question as to what course must be followed if there is a failure in discipline. We as parents, first of all, have been charged by God with the sacred responsibility to influence and to mold the thinking of our children. It is no accident that children are placed in the custody of parents. We can not allow them to grow up and form their own conclusions. God has established eternal principles, standards, and values which He expects us



to live by and implant into the minds of our little ones. "I know (Abraham), that he will command (to take control of, keep control of) his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord." "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (seriousness, soberness)." This is what God expects of Christian parents.

Who is chiefly responsible? "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). A twofold work is requested:

Admonish—"instruct, impart knowledge, call attention to truth and right"; and

Nurture—"bring up, care for and discipline, causing to walk according to knowledge.

Leave off discipline in character building, and instruction loses its effectiveness. Parental love is by nature soft and, if not tempered by divine love, becomes sentimental and permissive, blinding the parent to the child's true condition and needs; as a result, both are headed for trouble. Today much is said of understanding our children and reasoning with them, explaining the motives behind discipline. Certainly there is a time and place for this, but if it is neglected until this is possible, the most impressionable years are lost. Before they can walk, talk, or be reasoned with, we must begin to teach them emotional responsibility. Any clear evidence of self-will, rebellion, or anger should be dealt with. It is not true that discipline instills temper within a young child. The purpose of discipline is to help the child cope with it. Of course, the discipline is tempered according to the need and age.

Some of the first lessons of instruction come before verbal understanding is possible. Many parents make the mistake of thinking the child must be two, three, or four years old before any communication can be made. This is false. No must be plainly understood long be-

fore they can understand why. The dispositions of the old nature are similar to weeds—the longer they are allowed to grow, the deeper they root and the more difficult they are to uproot; if taken care of in the seedling stage, they are much simpler to control for both parent and child. When a child is old enough to understand words, negative or positive, make them good; the choice is not theirs whether they will respond. Do not ask anything of them you do not want them to do. Expect them to do what you ask; and see to it that they do it with no back talk or rebellion. Some parents will plead, beg, coax, threaten, and shout, and it all amounts to so much noise; and the poor child is left in the dark. We are not saying we should be harsh and demanding, but we must be firm.

Children are intelligent beings, and they soon learn what they can get by with. They also learn how to maneuver the parent or teacher to get their own ends accomplished. They are alert. Diversion will not get the job done. Example: For a parent to haul a child to school personally because of misbehavior in the vehicle where he travels with others may be a favor to those in the vehicle, but the greatest disfavor is to the child. How can any parent expect to mold character by shielding the child rather than dealing with the issue? Accuse the driver if you will, or the schoolteacher or the church leaders, or anyone who does not think exactly as you, and your child will grow up defying authority; do not be surprised if in the end he defies you.

We are responsible as parents to lead our children. Are we leading them, or are they leading us? We see parents giving in to their children and then following them. They must be taught to respect authority, and the most efficient way is to respect it ourselves.

The rod is rather old-fashioned in our culture, but properly applied in love, it has God's blessing and will bring results which nothing else will. The Bible says, "Chasten thy son (or child) while there is hope (clearly indicating that there comes a time when it is

too late), and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Proverbs 19:18). Which is most cruel: a few stripes if necessary to break the will, or a wake of rebellion and disobedience throughout life and the possibility of ending in the pit? Life will be hard for such a willful person; he will think almost everyone is against him when the opposite is true. He will be a trouble-maker in the home, in the school, and in the church. "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Proverbs 29:17). Is it worth the effort and pain? Surely! It will bring rest and delight to the child as well. The most restless child is the one without boundaries, or with boundaries that are not enforced.

There are two extremes in the application of discipline—overly harsh, or lenient—and either will fail in character building. A fit of anger, blended with extreme action, may frighten the child into submission, but it will never convince him that the parent is right. This is a sure way to lose respect and openness with the child. How can such parents properly discipline the child if they can not discipline themselves? On the other hand, some almost think you should discipline with a smile on your face. There is no enjoyment in discipline. If you are not displeased with their conduct, what are you disciplining for? The child should know full well you are displeased, and that such conduct will not be tolerated. It should not be done in anger, but in love. Discipline is not to vent anger or revenge, but for correction.

Effective discipline requires cooperation between parents and schoolteachers. They should support each other; if one corrects and the other pities, you know the results: the child suffers, and so does the home. It is important that we be consistent in our discipline—not allowing one thing today and forbidding it tomorrow. Confusion results; the child has no firm footing on which to stand. "Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath." One sure way to do this is to make light of or encourage some foolishness today and



to punish for it tomorrow. This will cause the child to lose confidence fast. We must be fair, firm, and consistent. It is not fair to knowingly spoil a child and then to spank him. It is not fair to scold or punish unless we are sure they are guilty. It is not fair to make a promise and not fulfill it by way of correction or reward. It is not fair to allow them to contest the authority of a parent or other responsible person. It is not fair—primarily to the child; but the parent will suffer as well. Eli is a good example of this. He heard of the evil of his sons and restrained them not. He appears to have been a weak and easygoing father, no doubt dealing with a slack hand when they were boys—likely giving instructions but failing in discipline; and the result was disastrous. A man of God came to Eli with a message (I Samuel 2: 29,30). Eli evidently wanted to stay on good terms with his sons, and in essence was siding with them against God. He was told that his two sons would soon die, and all his posterity would die in the flower of their age (verses 33,34). He still did not act; was it because they were his sons? His failure to remove them from office only reflected his earlier neglect. Eli did not sense discipline as the most urgent ingredient for discipleship and character building. Do we? Do we side with our children against the school or church? If so, we are reflecting the permissive attitude of Eli, and we will bring upon ourselves a bitter harvest. It is very important that we see the relationship between Eli's failure to restrain his sons and their not knowing the Lord, though they were engaged in religious activity. Just because your child is a member in the church and is engaging in religious ordinances does not guarantee he knows the Lord. The child that is not trained in the habit of obedience makes very poor material for the kingdom of God. For any child who disobeys his parents and gets by with it will find it extremely difficult to meekly surrender to the lordship of Christ and to the authority He delegates to His church. By contrast, those who are well-trained

from early infancy are being conditioned for surrender of their lives to the call of the Gospel. We as parents may have ever so good intentions, but if we fail in the area of discipline and proper attitudes, we contribute to their failure and may make ourselves partakers of their sin. This is very serious indeed.

A well-disciplined child is content, submissive, cheerful, teachable, obedient, truthful, unselfish, mannerly, and merciful. There is a prompt, cheerful response without a lot of noise.

As our children grow up and assume more and more responsibilities and personal decisions, we as parents must be close observers. What choices are they making? Where are they going? What are they doing? Who are their friends? What are they reading? Where are their interests? If in any of these areas there is a catering toward the world and the flesh, you as a parent must lovingly and yet firmly assert your God-delegated authority. Wise parents supervise the decisions of their growing children and in this way prevent them from going the wrong direction, leading others astray and marring the witness of the home and church.

Discipline is not an option; it is God's method of bringing rest to both body and mind of the child and, most important, a means of delivering their soul from hell, according to Proverbs 23:13, 14.

With some failures in life, we have another opportunity; but this is not so with our children. The time is short; as the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined. May we as parents and teachers, with help from God, incline them toward Him; and that requires discipline, as distasteful as it may be.

—By John Rudolph from The Christian Contender  
Selected by Herman Royer

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Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people...

—Zacharias

## HISTORICAL

## THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Concerning this epistle we must enquire, I. Into the divine authority of it; for this has been questioned by some. The divine original of it shines forth with such strong and unclouded rays that he who runs may read it as an eminent part of the canon of Scripture. Its general reception in the church of God in all ages— these are the evidences of its divine authority. II. As to the penman of this epistle, we are not so certain; it does not bear the name of any in the front of it, as the rest of the epistles do, and there has been some dispute among the learned to whom they should ascribe it. But it is generally assigned to the apostle Paul. In the primitive times it was generally ascribed to him. III. As to the scope and design of this epistle, it is very evident that it was clearly to inform the minds, and strongly to confirm the judgment, of the Hebrews in the transcendent excellency of the gospel above the law. The design of this epistle was to press the believing Hebrews to a constant adherence to the Christian faith, and perseverance in it, notwithstanding all the sufferings they might meet with in so doing. It must be acknowledged that there are many things in this epistle hard to be understood, but the sweetness we shall find therein will make us abundant amends for all the pains we take to understand it.

—Introduction to the Book of Hebrews  
Matthew Henry's Commentary page 708

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"PERHAPS"

Perhaps you sent a lovely card  
Or sat quietly in a chair;  
Perhaps you talked to God for us;  
If so, we felt the prayer.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words  
As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you made a phone call  
To help us through the day.

Perhaps we felt God's love so strong  
In hearts that truly shared;  
Perhaps it helped to make us strong  
Just knowing that you cared.

Perhaps we'll be more mindful  
Our neighbor's cross to bear;  
Perhaps we'll be more thoughtful  
To show we truly care.

Claude and Carol Boone  
New Lebanon, Ohio

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MEDITATION

AFFLICTION

The book of Job gives us an idea of the vast number of thoughts that rise in our hearts when sickness or trials come upon us. But it finally brings a blessing if we receive correction and instruction. Jesus is our great example, suffering all things to fulfill His Father's will and finally praying for His enemies. Stephen also reached that perfection. Peter speaks of the fiery trial that is to try us. We are told not to faint in our mind.

—Ernest Wagner

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If criticizing gives you pain, then do it; if it gives you the slightest pleasure, it is better to keep still. —Selected

## FOR YOUTH

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. (Proverbs 3:5-7)

An owner of a stagecoach line needed a driver. Three men applied for the job and were asked one question: "How close can you drive a stagecoach to the edge of a cliff? The first man answered with confidence, "Within an inch or two!" The second said, "probably about a foot." The third replied, "I don't know, I always stay as far away as possible!" The third man got the job.

We, as young Christians, are often confronted with a chance to get close, very close to the edge of a cliff, a cliff called sin. What are our reactions in these situations? Do we get as close as possible or try to stay far away? Many young people get too close...and fall off. Where do you stand?

The power of sin is strong, but if Christ is your personal Saviour, His strength in you will keep you from sin's grasp. That strength is the Holy Spirit who "...will guide you into all truth..." Sin is all around us; we're not isolated from it, but we can be insulated. Praise God! Not until in heaven will we be free from the presence of sin. In the meantime "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you." (James 4:7,8)

—Lloyd Wagner

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. This revelation will show us to be either careless, fearful, procrastinating, and unbelieving or rising again to new life in Christ Jesus. Truly, "God is good!" —L. C.

## NOTHINGNESS

Do you know who created "nothing"? We know that God is the Creator of the heavens, the earth, and all non-living things, And, yes, all living things, too, for God has given the blessing of life upon many of His works, But Who created nothing?

God did. In His great wisdom, He knew it would not be good to always have sunlight shining, so He designed a state called Darkness—or no light. He saw it would not be best for rocks and mountains to be always flowing around, so He made some things with no movement. And God designed the condition we call death (no life) so that if mankind should choose to sin they would not be able to be forever in such an unhappy situation.

When man chose disobedience and death, he was also choosing ignorance, for disobedience has no wisdom, and weakness, for death has no strength. And he was choosing no joy, no hope, no peace—and all the other "no-things" of the life without God.

But we praise God that He loves us still, And just as He provided in the original creation everything we could ever need for our life and health and comfort, so does He now supply to His people all the light and life and wisdom and strength that is in Jesus Christ.

Even as little children, let's learn the importance of God's ways. If we want to "really be something" in life, our pride will destroy us, and we will amount to nothing. But if we choose God's way of humble obedience, He will take our nothingness and make something wonderful of it, a thing of lasting joy and beauty.

—Stanley K. Brubaker

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